

Sasendle Adventure Tours



This is the Sasendle way: ONE LIFE LIVE IT

Cape Namibia Route Wild South West Africa 2010/2011 23 days / 22 nights

Tour Code **WILDSWA01 (G=Guided)**

The tour starts in Cape Town and leads via the beautiful West Coast of South-Africa into the rugged Aussenkehr Park after crossing the Gariep River via Noordoewer into Namibia. We visit the majestic Fish River Canyon and carry on to the Namib Desert and Sossusvlei with its high dunes. Lunar Landscapes and prehistoric Welwitschia Plants surround the coastal resort of Swakopmund. The last day is spent exploring amazing rock formations in the Erongo Mountains before the safari ends in Namibia's bustling capital, Windhoek. The safari is conducted in Sasendle 4x4 vehicles and in small groups. Accommodation is provided at comfortable guesthouses and tourist class lodges. The approximate distance for this tour is 3250km.

Day 1: Western Cape Coast

We depart from **Cape Town** in the morning and travel along the R27 taking the scenic coastal route of the Western Cape to Lamberts Bay. In the afternoon we visit the famous Bird Island (excursion included). Bird Island provides shelter and protection for thousands of seabirds, particularly Cape gannets, various species of cormorants, and penguins. Photographers can view the birds fairly close up from a look-out-hide. During the whale season from July to November, heavy side-dolphins and southern right whales are often seen in the area (boat trips optional). During the flower season in August and September, the area sports an abundance of colourful flowers. Other optional activities like angling, quad-biking, golfing or sand boarding in the dunes are available (time-permitting)

Overnight Lamberts Bay Hotel or similar. (DBB)

Day 2: Namaqualand - Springbok

Spectacular scenery of rugged hills and granite domes offers itself on the drive to our destination - Naries Namakwa Retreat. This region is a photographic paradise with succulent and wild flowers in abundance during the flower season (Aug&Sep). Springbok's history is closely linked to the copper mining industry and the colorful culture of the Nama people is widely on display in this area.

Overnight Naries Namakwa Retreat or similar. (DBB)

Day 3: Aussenkehr Park - Namibian Border

Today we will drive through the Aussenkehr Park, which is remote and mountainous and one of the finest wilderness areas in South Africa. It is home to numerous rare mammal, reptile and plant species. Here we may get in contact with local Nama tribes who move with their live-stock with the changing of seasons in search of better pastures. We cross the Namibian border via Noordoewer, to our overnight destination at Norotshama River Lodge.

Overnight Norotshama River Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 4: Fish River Canyon

Today we travel through the fantastic landscape of the Nama Karoo and admire its fauna and flora. En route northwards we take a break at Ai-Ais Rest Camp to relax in the hot spas or the cool swimming pools. One of the highlights in Southern Namibia is the great Fish River Canyon which we shall visit in the afternoon measuring 160 km in length, 27 km in width and up to 550 m deep the canyon is one area presents an awesome sight during sunset. The Fish River originates 600 km further up in the Naukluft Mountains and ends south of Ai-Ais where it flows into the Gariep River. The canyon offers beautiful views from various lookout points.

Overnight Canon Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 5: Succulent Karoo Desert

After a late morning breakfast we will depart via Seeheim to Aus and the Klein Aus Vista Homestead. Time at free disposal for walks or to relax and enjoy the peaceful surroundings. This is also the realm of the 'wild horses of the Namib. These magnificent creatures can often be seen roaming the far horizons or gathering at a watering point close by.

Overnight Klein-Aus Vista or similar. (DBB)

Day 6: Succulent Karoo Desert - Lüderitz

A day excursion to the quaint harbor town of Lüderitz. The town has an interesting German colonial background and sports a curious array of historical buildings built during the diamond rush at the turn of the century. We visit the "ghost town" Kolmanskop where the first diamonds were found 100 years ago. Today its dilapidated houses are slowly being swamped by the shifting sands of the Namib. We return to Klein Aus Vista in the afternoon.

Overnight Klein-Aus Vista or similar. (DBB)

Day 7: - Namib Desert - Tiras Nature reserve

We depart northwards along the Namib Naukluft Park and the Tiras Conservancy area. The Namib Naukluft National Park is considered the largest game park in Africa with the Namib Desert the oldest desert in the world. Many creatures live in this hyper-arid region, including snakes, geckos, unusual insects, antelopes, hyenas, and jackals. Moisture comes in as fog off the Atlantic Ocean, then falls as rain, with the average 106 millimeters of rainfall per year concentrated in the months of February to April. Ostrich, Oryx or Springbok roam this diverse landscape. Magnificent scenery provides the perfect backdrop for your holiday photos.

Overnight Duwisib Castle or similar. (DBB)

Day 8: Namib Desert

We proceed slowly to our next destination near the entrance gate to the Namib Naukluft Park. Age-old camel thorn trees and unsurpassed 360 degree views dominate the desert landscape towards the mountain-range in the distance.

Overnight Sossusvlei Desert Camp or similar. (DBB)

Day 9: Namib Desert – Sossusvlei, Sesriem

Today's highlight is the high dunes at Sossusvlei, a truly spectacular sight. We enter the Namib-Naukluft Park at sunrise, while the temperature is still mild and when the dune contrasts are at their best. At Dune 45, the more energetic have the opportunity to climb to the upper ridge of the world's most photographed dune. Further along, a gradual 2.6 kilometer round-trip walk takes you to the well photographed "Dead Vlei". Sossusvlei is at the 'end of road' and the highlight of the day. We also visit the rugged Sesriem Canyon, where the Tsauchab River and erosion have incised a narrow gorge over the millennia. The permanent water pools at its bottom have ensured the survival of nomadic populations in pre-historic times as well as that of early European explorers and the so-called Thirstland Trekkers, in more recent centuries. On our way back to the Sossusvlei Desert Camp, we take a lunch break at a lodge situated next to the Sesriem Gate of the park where light lunches (optional) and cold beverages are served on a terrace overlooking the dry bed of the ephemeral Tsauchab River and the dunes beyond it. On return to our accommodation, the remainder of the day is at leisure.

Overnight Sossusvlei Desert Camp or similar. (DBB)

Day 10: Swakopmund

Today's destination is the cool Atlantic Coast and the quaint town of Swakopmund. En route we will explore the Namib Desert with the rugged Kuiseb Canyon, while driving along the Swakop riverbed. We stop at the eerie moon landscape and marvel at the Welwitschia Mirabilis, an ancient plant endemic to the Namib Desert. After arriving in Swakopmund you can explore the popular coastal resort on your own and spend time at leisure or with shopping.

Overnight Swakop Lodge or similar. (BB)

Day 11: Swakopmund

Day free in Swakopmund. Take a walk through town and enjoy the mixture of colonial flair and historic architecture in Swakopmund (the historic town, the Woermannhouse, the Hohenzollernhouse, the old Magistrates Court, the historical Jail and the Jetty and the lighthouse).

Various optional activities can be arranged at own expense:

Walvis Bay lagoon boat cruises, fishing, kayaking, quad biking, sand boarding, tandem-skydive, camel ride, golfing, horse riding, township tour, paragliding, scenic flights, land yachting and/ or ballooning.

Overnight Swakop Lodge or similar. (BB)

Day 12: Erongo Mountains

We leave the coast and journey inland again to a guest farm near the scenic Erongo Mountains. This region is famous for its multitude of ancient rock paintings, many of them still unknown and hidden. If time allows, there is the possibility of a visit to a nearby 'Living village of the Ju/Hoansi San' people (at extra expense and only possible April – Oct)

Overnight Ai-Aiba Rocking Painting Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 13 AND 14: Windhoek

Last stop at the Okahandja woodcarvers market before ending the tour in Windhoek. You will be dropped off at your accommodation where you will spend the rest of the day and the next day to prepare for the next leg of the trip. We return with the "Windhoek- Kalahari-Namaqualand-Cape Discovery" (9 days) which starts in Windhoek on the morning of the 15th.

Overnight at The Elegant Guest House or similar. (BB)

Day 15: Gobabis - SanDune Lodge

We depart from Windhoek via a scenic drive through the cattle country with its undulating bushveld, towards the farmers-town Gobabis and then further to the beautiful SanDune Lodge in the Kalahari. Here you have the opportunity to get to know the customs and lifestyles of one of the oldest inhabitants of Africa, the San (Bushmen). Optional activities with the San are possible at the farm (own expense)

Overnight SanDune Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 16: Stampriet -Historical Guest House

The drive southwards will be rewarded with a spectacular Kalahari Landscape as we use back roads to our next destination. At the Stampriet Historical Guesthouse the antique interior decor will take you back to days gone by the surrounding district is full of undiscovered myths and history. **Optional Activities are possible for own expense.**

Overnight Historical Guest House or similar. (DBB)

Day17: Kgalagadi Trans Frontier Park - Mata-Mata

We depart through the Namibian desert savannah to the Mata-Mata Border, entering the Kgalagadi Trans Frontier Park, one of the world's great wilderness areas. Red sand dunes, sparse vegetation and dry river beds show bird, antelope and predator species off at premium and provide excellent photo- opportunities. Enjoy dinner around the fire, while listening to the sounds of the night. Don't be surprised if you hear lion, hyena, leopard and black backed jackal howling during the night. Enjoy a typical African braai (barbeque) prepared by the Sasendle Team.

Overnight Kalahari Tented or Mata-Mata Camp. (DBB)

Day 18: Kgalagadi Trans Frontier Park - Twee Rivieren

After an early breakfast we will start our game drive through the park. With luck we may encounter big cats like cheetah, leopard and/or the famous black-maned Kalahari lion. The park is also home to a variety of other game such as, Oryx, springbok, blue wildebeest and red hartebeest, which are seen quite regularly. It is also a bird watcher's paradise with more than 20 larger raptor species. Our route takes us northwards via Nossob as we explore the Park and work our way back towards our destination with game viewing en route.

Overnight Twee Rivieren Camp or similar. (DBB)

Day 19: Ashkam - Molopo Kalahari Lodge

After a leisurely breakfast we will take a slow drive to the Molopo Kalahari Lodge. The Lodge is the ideal stop over point to and from the Kgalagadi Park, or merely for a relaxing getaway to cleanse the body and mind. The lodge consists of fully serviced chalets, rondavels and newly established tented chalets quaintly positioned between the red Kalahari Dunes. **Optional Activities are offered by the lodge for own expense.**

Overnight Molopo Kalahari Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 20: Augrabies Falls - Kalahari Gateway Lodge

Our Route takes us southwards through the Northern Cape Region via Upington to the South Africa's largest waterfall, the Augrabies Falls. Here the Gariiep River drops 191 meters into the ravine at the Augrabies Falls. The thundering cascade of water led the original Hottentot residents to believe that evil spirits were active here, and so they named the waterfall Ankoerebis, "place of big noises", from which the Trek Boers, who settled here later on, derived the name Augrabies. We take a walk along wooden pathways and also enjoy great bird life and rock hyrax basking in the sun.

Overnight Augrabies Rest Camp or similar. (DBB)

Day 21: Calvinia - Hantam House

Today we take a particular scenic route through the grape-producing regions of Kakamas and Keimoes southwards to Kenhardt. Here the world's largest forests of quiver trees are found. We marvel at these magnificent aloes with their spiky branches which are often nesting places for sociable weavers. After a long drive via the Northern Cape landscape, we arrive at Calvinia. Calvinia is surrounded by two prominent landmarks, the Hantam mountain range and the Reunieb Mountain. During the Flower season (Aug & Sep) this seemingly barren and dry countryside transforms itself into a flower-wonderland. Your accommodation is provided in a historical synagogue. Various oddities and olden-days memorabilia can be viewed at the Museum and the world's largest 'Post-box' is situated across the road. The development of sheep and wool farming in South Africa is fully displayed at a separate venue.

Overnight Hantam House or similar. (DBB)

Day 22: Clanwilliam - Clanwilliam Lodge

Our journey leads us along back roads through Renosterveld (a relative of fynbos vegetation) country to our next destination, Clanwilliam, situated in the Western Cape. The town is also famous for its Rooibos tea cultivation and production and if interested, we can visit one of the plantations or factories nearby. Your accommodation establishment was founded in 1732 and presents a picturesque Cape Dutch homestead. Tucked away at the foot of the Cedarberg Mountains and perched at Clanwilliam Dam, the Lodge is a magnificent piece of architecture and offers great hospitality. Optional wellness treatments are available and can be arranged to prepare you for a relaxed journey home.

Overnight Clanwilliam Lodge or similar. (DBB)

Day 23: Cape Town

Today we proceed through Citrusdal where most of South Africa's citrus fruits are grown, passed the Cedarberg Mountain Range along the N7 main road via Piketberg and Malmesbury to Cape Town. We will drop you at your required venue where the tour ends.

Tour Prices: Please refer to our price lists for Guided Safaris
Departures: On request; tour operators are welcome to request fixed dates
Group Sizes: Min. 2/Max. 4 participants per 4x4 vehicle – Max. 12 guests per departure
Larger groups will be quoted on request & subject to availability of suitable services only

Inclusions and exclusions Wild South West Africa 2010/2011 23 days / 22 nights

Tour Code WILDSWA01 (G=Guided)

Included:

- SAT transport in 4x4 vehicles; Public Liability & Passenger Liability Insurance
- Services of a licensed English speaking driver-guide per vehicle
- 22 nights Days accommodation in comfortable guesthouses/guest farms and tourist class lodges. Meals as stated in program
- Fees for nature conservation areas, sightseeing & activities as per itinerary (unless stipulated as "OPTIONAL")
- Portage in overnight facilities
- Non-alcoholic beverages on tour vehicle during overland drives (in limited quantities)
- Detailed itinerary & info on places of interest

Excluded:

- Flights / Visa & Permits / Travel Insurances of any kind
- Cost related to the personal use of 3G internet access & GSM cell phone provided by SAT on tour
- Tips & gratuities to hotel/restaurant personnel and guides
- Alcoholic and any other beverages in addition to those included above
- Any optional services/meals/activities/excursions not included/not mentioned in the itinerary
- Any expense of a personal nature such as for phone calls, laundry services, souvenirs, and similar

For more information about this safari please contact:

SASENDLE ADVENTURE TOURS – Cape Town, South Africa

Email: info@sasendle-adventures.com / Web: www.sasendle-adventures.com

Mobile: +27-84-800 8300 or +27-82-888 9643 / Tel: +27-21-9112275 Fax: +27-21-9113075