

## NAMIBIA – THE LAND GOD MADE IN ANGER



12 days – departing Australia August 7, 2011

**Namibia, formerly called South-West Africa, is like no other African destination – rugged, raw, untamed - teeming with wildlife and with the highest sand dunes in the world. Here you will also find the most hospitable people in the world; a legacy of the strong Afrikaner and German influence.**

**A highlight of this 12-day tour is hiking the Fish River Canyon – the second largest canyon in the world.**

**Those not fit enough to walk for 5 days can take a private tour to Etosha National Park on Day 5 for some superb game viewing, joining the rest of the group in Cape Town on Day 12.**



### **Day 1 Welcome to Afrika!**

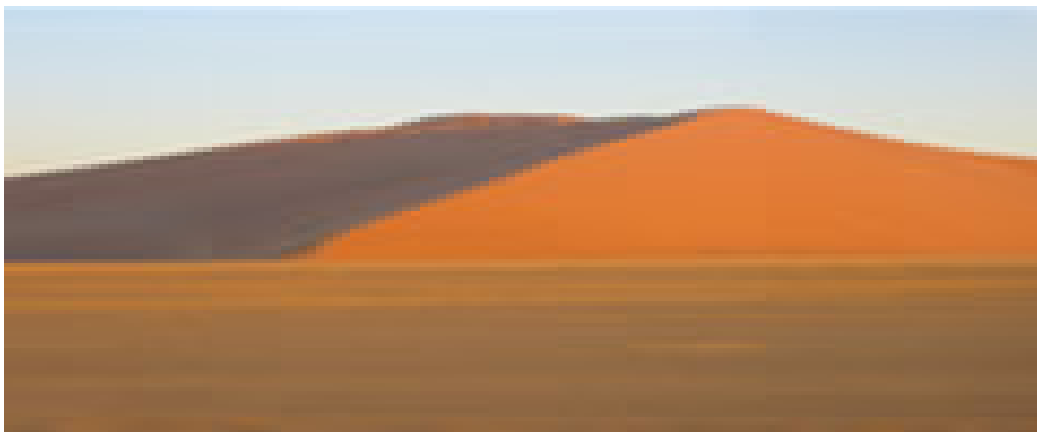
Depart Australia for your flight to Johannesburg. Overnight at a hotel near the airport, ready for an early departure to Namibia the next morning.

### **Day 2 Game farm and tame cheetah**



Arrive Windhoek airport where our private mini bus/coach will meet us and drive to a wildgame farm, Uhlenhorst for light lunch and an opportunity to view cheetahs. You can even touch them if you're game (I have) and it is a great photo opportunity. Likely to see antelope along the way, but not the Big5. If time permits, Hoekus van Niekerk, our host, will take us on a game drive. After lunch continue to Betesda Lodge in the Namib Desert for a 2-night stay.

### **Day 3 Sossusvlei; sand dunes, sand seas, rolling sand and more sand**



Today we climb the highest sand dunes in the world. Sossusvlei is an amazing archeological place situated in the heart of the Namib and close to the Kalahari.

Sossusvlei is a clay pan, lying within the Namib-Naukluft National Park which is the largest conservation area in Africa, and fourth largest in the world. The word 'Vlei' is Afrikaans for a shallow depression filled with water (in this case, a depression that might sometimes be filled with water!)

Normally it is bone dry.

This particular 'vlei' is almost entirely surrounded by sharp-edged dunes, beyond which lies a formidable sea of rolling sand, stretching in unbroken immensity all the way to the coast. It is quite a challenge scaling the dunes, but well worth the achievement when you get to the top.

A photographer's paradise.

#### **Day 4 Hot springs and a big canyon**

We drive further south into the Namib Desert towards the South African border to the Fish River Canyon for our overnight stop, ready for an early start the following day.

We stay at the hot springs resort, Ai Ais where we can safely leave our bus and luggage not needed for the next 5 days. Enjoy a long soak in one of the pools (either outdoors or under cover) before our big challenge tomorrow.

**Note:** Those not undertaking the Fish River Canyon hike spend another day at Ai Ais before returning to Windhoek for a 3-day tour to Etosha.

#### **Day 5 - 9 Hiking the biggest canyon in the Southern Hemisphere**



For the next five days we are walking the canyon and sleeping under the African sky. We may see antelopes such as springbok, smaller buck, gemsbuck, zebra and the odd hyena and jackal at night.

The canyon, situated along the lower reaches of the Fish River, is one of the most impressive natural beauties in the southern part of Namibia and was developed some 500 million years ago, predominantly during the pluvial times - a rainy climatic epoch.

With a depth of up to 550 metres, the Fish River Canyon is the second largest gorge and meanders along a distance of 160 kilometres through the fissured Koubis massif all the way down to Ai-Ais.

The self-guided 86 kilometre hike requires good physical health (not to Kokoda standards though) and can only be undertaken during the cooler winter months because of the intense desert heat in summer. A permit is required (organised by our office) as well as a doctor's certificate.



Hikers need to carry everything they need over the next 5 days, including food and sleeping mat.

### **Day 10 A tap on the shoulder and a welcome hot tub**

Congratulations; you have achieved one of the most sought-after walks in the world. We walk into Ai Ais this afternoon to soak away all the aches and pains of the last few days. A comfortable bed at last! Overnight Ai Ais.

### **Day 11 Across the border, wine and the Cape**



Let the driver do all the work today!  
Sit back, feet up and enjoy the trip across the border into South Africa and down to the Cape. Overnight in the Boland – the most noted wine region in Africa. We will aim to stay on a wine farm tonight.

### **Day 12 Cape Town – and a new journey begins**

Short drive to Cape Town today to start our Africa Calls Tour or return to Australia.

