

Namibia Botswana Cultural Tour

**30th September – 20th October
2017**



Sat. 30 Sept. Fly to Windhoek via Frankfurt.

Sun. 1st October – arrive Wdh for a great breakfast overlooking the city. Drive to Otjiwarongo (3 hrs.) 2 nights at Bush Pillow. Have a drive around this small town and possibly visit the local shops. Dinner included.



Mon. 2nd - Visit Cheetah Conservation Fund, the world's leading organization dedicated to saving the cheetah in the wild. The CCF works with farmers to better understand the interaction between cheetahs and humans, and to learn how to save the cheetahs and their habitat (activities can be chosen and paid for during visit). Afternoon talk about Namibia and photography there with Scott & Judy, professional photographers. Questions and discussion welcome. Scott is also a natural teacher and motivational speaker – should be an entertaining and educational afternoon! Evening braai. Scott is accompanying us for the first part of the trip and will be on hand to give help and advice, both on Namibia and photography. Dinner, Bed & Breakfast (DBB) included.

Tues. 3rd – Drive to Damara Mopane (3 hrs.) This lodge is part of the Gondwana Collection, the leading brand in Namibian eco-tourism, widely respected for its environmental entrepreneurship and green technologies. Scott knows the company well and will tell us about the Gondwana philosophy. This lodge has a deck that we can walk to and from which we can enjoy the sunset over the bush. Bed & Breakfast incl.



Weds. 4th Drive to Twyfelfontein (1.5 hrs.) A local guide will show us the amazing rock art, both paintings and etchings. (Entrance fee included) We will learn more about the origins of the Bushmen and about their culture. We will also visit the Damara Living Museum to learn more about the Damara people. Also visit the petrified forest if time. Along the way we should see a welwitchia plant or two. Bed & Breakfast incl.

Thurs. 5th – Drive to Safari Camp (4 hrs.) Explore this amazing place, modeled on a township shebeen at the time of independence. Swim and later be entertained with singing and dancing while we eat. Dinner included.



Fri. 6th – Game drive in Etosha (included). We hope to talk to Otto, safari guide. Otto is a Bushman and can tell us how his people are coping in the modern world. Scott knows the Lodge, Etosha and Otto very well. He will also help us to remember what we learnt in the photo session we had in Otjiwarongo, put it into practice and find out more about the animals. Afternoons will usually be spent relaxing, maybe by the pool. Dinner included.

Saturday. 7th – (Scott leaves us.) Drive to Mokuti Lodge through Etosha, one of the best National Game Parks in Africa - at least five hours depending on what we see! 1 night. Relax when we arrive! B&B included.

Sunday. 8th - Drive to Fiume Lodge 5 hrs. Relax at the lodge in the afternoon. 1 night Lodge, 2 nights Camp. DB&B Please note - to experience the Bushmen we have to go to the Fiume Bush Camp for 2 nights. This is situated 85 km from the Fiume Lodge.

Monday. 9th – Bushman Experience (Included). Fiume lodge offers Bushmen excursions into Bushman land and offers a glimpse into the lives of this ancient civilization. We can expect an informal learning experience about these people, their history, lifestyle and culture and can look forward to: Bush walk, village life, making of tools, jewellery and weapons. We will also be taught how to start a fire, how and what to use as medicines and the different roles of men and women in the community. DB&B.



Tuesday 10th - Life of Namibian Farmer (half day) Included. The farmer will explain what duties are on the agenda for the day as well as a bit of history about the farm, the animals, and what farming in Namibia is all about. Guests will then accompany the farmer, observing and taking part in the farming duties for the day. DB&B.



Wednesday. 11th – Drive to Hakusembe River Lodge - 4 hrs. 1night. Situated 16km from Rundu in the Kavango region, this is a gem of a lodge and one of the Caprivi accommodation treasures in the northern reaches of the country. We can cool off at the pool in the luxuriant garden and take a stroll to the Mbunza cultural village to learn about the Kavango culture. Later hop aboard the Hakusembe River Queen for a Sunset Champagne Cruise (B&B and Sunset Champagne Cruise included).

Thursday. 12th – Drive to Ndhovu (3 hrs), a peaceful riverine retreat about 20 km southeast of the Divundu Bridge on the Mahango river just below the Popa Falls. Drive in through a local village, settle in and relax on the wooden deck with a cool drink and, all being well, watching hippos, elephants and other animals in the river or in the Bwabata Park over the water. This is a comfortable Lodge in true African Safari style that also hosts a myriad of birds. DB&B incl.



Friday.13th – Game cruise. Game drive into Mahangu optional. DB&B

Saturday. 14th – drive into Botswana. Guma Lagoon Camp. 2 nights. Guma Lagoon Camp is situated along the banks of the Guma Lagoon on the northwestern side of the Okavango Delta. Dinner incl.



Sunday. 15th, Guma Lagoon Camp. Boat cruise by night and DB&B incl.

Optional extra: Mokoro day - This is an adventurous safari experience not to be missed. SFr.200 per mokoro. This includes: 15-minute boat transfer; fiberglass or wooden mokoro which can seat two people; detailed safety and information talk; you will be poled through water lily beds, palm islands and papyrus stands. On one of the larger islands stop for lunch and a guided walk. There is always a chance of seeing red lechwe antelope and elephants. Return to mokoro station. Motorboat transfer back to camp.



Monday. 16th, Drive to Maun 5 hrs. Thamalakane River Lodge is placed on the banks of the Thamalakane River, just 19kms from Maun, and en route to the famous Moremi Game Reserve. En-suite stone chalets are positioned in the shade, overlooking the river. Chalets, public areas and the swimming pool enjoy the 180 degree view of the riverbanks lined with fluttering reeds and visited by an ever changing array of water fowl, and birds and the occasional hippo. It is

a delightful place to come home to after a day spent exploring. Sunset Cruise included.

Tues 17th Thamalakane Lodge. DB&B incl. Relaxing activities optional. Recommend full day Moremi Game Drive \$200 per person

We can also do (activities for own account):

- Boat Cruise full day. Leaving the lodge/launching bay by boat for a cruise along the Boro river into the Okavango Delta. Wonderful bird watching along the way. On an island you can enjoy your lunch and a walk with a qualified guide. Lunch packs and drinks can be ordered at the restaurant. US\$148.



- Scenic Flight US\$324 -570 per person

- Mokoro full day – US\$112. Drive 40 minutes. Guests are picked up at the lodge and transferred to Boro Poler station where they embark on a guided walk and a Mokoro adventure. Meals and soft drinks are included in this day trip.

A Makoro trip will give guests the opportunity to learn more about the Delta, the ecosystem and its functioning – how the delta works, why it floods, the importance of flooding to the ecosystem, the effect of this on all animal life – both disadvantages and advantages, the effect it has on plant life, the various species that need the flood to survive, the special adaptations of certain plants to increased water levels each year. A truly amazing variety of birds are to be seen, on a mokoro you are placed right there in their habitat, you witness nest making, feeding young, mating behaviour and foraging.

Weds 18th Thamalakane Lodge DB&B incl . Relaxing activities optional - as above. Drive into Maun on request.

Thursday 19th Drive to Maun airport to catch flight to (probably) Johannesburg. Farewell.

Cost: Please note: prices are estimates for 2017.

SFr.6'200 per person sharing
SFr.6'420 single accommodation

Minimum number of travelers 6, maximum number 8. Price does not include Flights to/from Europe.

The organisers reserve the right to change this itinerary if necessary.