

# African Expert



156 Union Road

Surrey Hills 3127

Mobile: 0415 380042

[katrina@africanexpert.com.au](mailto:katrina@africanexpert.com.au)

[www.africanexpert.com.au](http://www.africanexpert.com.au)

## **Under the African Sky – Namibia**

### **A Small Group Safari Escorted by Glen & Natalie Holland**

Day 1	25 May 2015	Windhoek, Hilton Hotel (Bed and Breakfast)
Day 2	26 May 2015	Namib Desert Lodge Standard Room (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)
Day 3	27 May 2015	Namib Desert Lodge Standard Room (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)
Day 4	28 May 2015	Swakopmund Sands Hotel (Bed & Breakfast)
Day 5	29 May 2015	Swakopmund Sands Hotel (Bed & Breakfast)
Day 6	30 May 2015	Damaraland, Brandberg White Lady Lodge (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)
Day 7	31 May 2015	Damaraland, Brandberg White Lady Lodge (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)
Day 8	01 June 2015	Etosha National Park Central, Halali Camp (Bed & Breakfast)
Day 9	02 June 2015	Etosha National Park Central, Halali Camp (Bed & Breakfast)
Day 10	03 June 2015	Eastern Etosha, Naumtoni Camp (Bed & Breakfast)
Day 11	04 June 2015	Nkwazi Lodge (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)
Day 12	05 June 2015	Rundu to Mahangu Safari Lodge (Dinner Bed & Breakfast)
Day 13	06 June 2015	Mahangu Safari Lodge (Dinner Bed & Breakfast)
Day 14	07 June 2015	Caprivi River Lodge (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)
Day 15	08 June 2015	Caprivi River Lodge (Dinner, Bed & Breakfast)
Day 16	09 June 2015	Caprivi to Livingstone Airport

From the ochre-coloured dunes of the Namib Desert to the lily-choked backwaters of the Okavango Panhandle, the flamingo-studded lagoons of Walvis Bay to the game-filled waterholes of Etosha and the breath-taking Victoria Falls, this tour provides incredible contrasts and an eco-tourism experience like no other! A comprehensive overland safari combines the numerous endemic and special birds and animals of the dry, western deserts with the moist Okavango region. Spending quality time observing mammals, large and small, will be a major aspect of this tour and you can expect to see an exciting array of charismatic African big game, including the fabled “Big 5”.

## **Day 1: Windhoek.**

Upon arrival at Hosea Kutako International Airport just outside Windhoek you will be transferred to a comfortable guesthouse in the city. The capital city of Namibia, Windhoek, lies in a bowl of mountains that form part of the rugged Khomas-Hochland range and excellent birding may be enjoyed right on the outskirts of town.

Enjoy the day with a short city tours, followed by lunch at a local Windhoek Restaurant. You will then visit the Daan Viljoen Nature Reserve the dry Acacia woodland and rocky grassland of Daan Viljoen Nature Reserve.

Some of the specials of the area include Monteiro's Hornbill, Carp's Black Tit, Short-toed Rock Thrush and Rockrunner. Other great birds that we hope for are Orange River Francolin, Swallow-tailed Bee-eater, African Red-eyed Bulbul, the diminutive Cape Penduline Tit, Mountain Wheatear, Crimson-breasted Shrike, Red-headed Finch, Violet-eared Waxbill and Yellow Canary.

Mammals are prolific and we hope to see the endangered Hartmann's Mountain Zebra, the regal Gemsbok, Giraffe, playful troops of Chacma Baboon and small herds of Blue Wildebeest.



After your visit to the park you will be transferred through to River Crossing Lodge for your overnight stay.

### **1 night accommodation at Hilton Hotel – King Hilton Guest Room Bed & Breakfast**

Hilton Windhoek has a full-service spa, an outdoor pool, and a health club. Wireless and wired high-speed Internet access is available in public areas (surcharges apply) and an Internet point is located on site. This 5-star hotel features business amenities including a business center, a meeting/conference room, and secretarial services. Dining options at the hotel include 3 restaurants along with 2 coffee shops/cafés, 2 bars/lounges, and a poolside bar. The staff can provide concierge services, event catering, and tour assistance. Additional amenities at this Art Deco hotel include a rooftop terrace, multilingual staff, and gift shops/newsstands.

Rooms have city views. The 150 air-conditioned guestrooms at Hilton Windhoek include MP3 docking stations and laptop-compatible safes. Beds have pillowtop mattresses and premium bedding. Pillow menus are available. Wireless and wired high-speed Internet access (surcharge) is provided. 32-inch LCD TVs are equipped with premium cable channels. All accommodations provide desks, ergonomic chairs, and direct-dial phones with voice mail. Bathrooms offer separate bathtubs and showers, bathrobes, makeup/shaving mirrors, and hair dryers. All units feature minibars and coffee/tea makers. Additional amenities include complimentary weekday newspapers and irons/ironing boards. In addition, amenities available on request include in-room massages and wake-up calls. Turndown service is offered nightly and housekeeping is available daily.



Dinner under own account

## **Day 2: Windhoek to Namib Naukluft Park**

After an early breakfast, we will then begin the journey across the Central Highlands of Namibia. Roadside birding is rewarding and we will watch out for Verreaux's Eagle, Black-chested Snake Eagle, Pale Chanting Goshawk, Black-winged Kite, the beautiful Purple Roller, the diminutive Long-billed Crombec, Anteating Chat, Marico and Chat Flycatchers, Cape Crow, Pale-winged Starling, Great and Cape Sparrows and Lark-like Bunting. The scenery is dotted with huge, golden Social Weaver nests and we may be fortunate in locating the Pygmy Falcon that utilizes these nests as a convenient home.

In the late afternoon we will arrive at our overnight destination, the Namib Desert Lodge.

### **2 nights' at Namib Desert Lodge – Standard Room Dinner Bed and Breakfast basis**

Namib Desert Lodge is just 60km north of Sesriem on the C19 road, at the foot of a red sandstone cliff, the "fossilised" dunes. It is a large lodge with 68 en-suite rooms set out in rows amongst beautiful gardens

The main building and the chalets of Namib Desert Lodge are spread out along the foot of the fossilised dunes of the ancient Namib. A comfortable sojourn is guaranteed by 65 en suite rooms with air conditioning. A restaurant and bar, an inviting terrace with views of the fossilised dunes and two swimming pools beckon you to linger and relax. Oryx antelope and springbok make frequent appearances at our illuminated watering place.

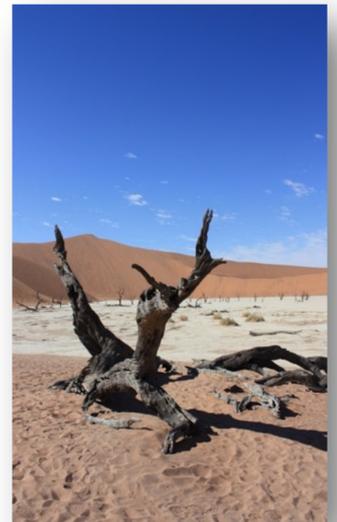


### **Day 3: Sossusvlei & Sesriem Canyon**

This morning you will meet your guide and visit the Sossusvlei & Sesriem Canyon. The sand dunes of Sossusvlei in the Namib Desert are often referred to as the highest dunes in the world. Located in the Namib Naukluft park, the largest conservation area in Africa, and fourth largest in the world.

The best time to view Sossusvlei is close to sunrise and sunset; the colours are strong and constantly changing, allowing for wonderful photographic opportunities. The midday heat is intense and best spent in the shade.

This particular 'vlei' is actually a more-or-less circular, hard-surfaced depression that 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. However, the name 'Sossusvlei' nowadays applies to the whole area - an area that encompasses the great plain of the Tsauchab River together with the red dunes that march along like giant sentinels to south and north of the plain.



The second attraction of the area is Sesriem Canyon, which derives its name from the fact that early Afrikaner trekkers had to use six ('ses') leather thongs (a thong is a 'riem') so that their buckets could reach the water far below. The canyon begins as an almost imperceptible but nevertheless deep cleft in level, stony ground, and then widens until it finally flattens out onto the plain. Because it is so deep and sheltered, it often holds water well into the dry season - an invigorating sight in such a barren and stark environment.

Climbing to the top of Big Mama, as it is known to the locals, is well worth every bead of sweat. Catch your breath, take a drink and try to avoid camera shake before capturing some unique moments in your life. From the top you can see Naravlei; so-called because of the countless cucumber-like melons growing around the edge of the pan. The !Nara plant is a vital source of nourishment for many desert creatures, including man. Cessna Pan is to the east and the rocky ridges of Witberg have proved to be a valuable landmark for adventurers over the years. Dead Vlei is at the foot of Big Mama. Its' dead camelthorn trees, some over 800 years old, stand helplessly as photographers worldwide attempt to capture that unique, ageless desert shot. After your tour, the group will enjoy lunch at Sossusvlei Lodge.



You will then return to Namib Desert Lodge for dinner and overnight.

**Day 4: Namib Naukluft Park to Walvis Bay and onto Swakopmund**

We descend towards the coast and the terrain becomes increasingly desolate and barren consisting of seemingly lifeless gravel plains. We will make frequent stops in the desert to scan for Common Ostrich (these wild, desert birds represent one of the few genetically pure populations of this species in southern Africa), the endemic Rüppell's Korhaan and the almost white desert race of Tractrac Chat.



Enjoy lunch at a local Walvis Bay Restaurants. After lunch you will visit the Salt Pans with your guide.

The marine coast, offshore guano islands, salt pans and estuaries around Walvis Bay and Swakopmund to the north literally teem with water birds. At this time of year most of the migrants and shorebirds are in the bay and we can expect some wonderful wader watching. The thousands upon thousands of Greater and Lesser Flamingos feeding along the fringes of

the bay alone make the trip worthwhile! Marine cormorants, especially Cape, form impressive lines as they stream out over the cold ocean in search of food.

We will scan these large flocks in search of Crowned and Cormorant, which occur in much lower numbers, as well the rare Bank Cormorant. Great White Pelican is prominent throughout the area and specialties of the pans include the localized Chestnut-banded Plover, Hartlaub's Gull and Damara Tern, the latter being a breeding endemic. The striking but uncommon African Oystercatcher may be seen along the rocky shores and waders to be expected on the extensive mudflats in the lagoon include White-fronted and Grey Plovers, Ruddy Turnstone, Marsh Sandpiper, Red Knot, Sanderling, Bar-tailed Godwit and Pied Avocet. Some of the rarities for southern Africa that are possible at this time of year include Eurasian Oystercatcher and Red-necked Phalarope.

By late afternoon we will arrive at our accommodation in Swakopmund, with time enough to settle in before Dinner (**DINNER TO OWN ACCOUNT**)

**2 nights' accommodation at Swakopmund Sands Hotel  
Bed & Breakfast basis**

A visit to Swakopmund will not be complete unless you have stayed at the newly upgraded Swakopmund Sands. The Swakopmund Sands offers 19 luxurious rooms ranging from luxury suites to single and family suites. The hotel itself is situated on the platinum mile of Swakopmund and is walking distance to the centre of the town meandering along the beach taking you into the town. The hotel is literary minutes' walk away from very popular Jetty and TUG restaurants and other tourist attractions and yet you have total privacy once in the premises of the Hotel. All the rooms are equip with flat screen TVs, safe, under floor heating, fridge, and tea and coffee-making facilities for your convenience. Laundry service is available for same day delivery. The bathrooms have hairdryer and shaving facility and all international power points can be used. In the morning you will be able to enjoy a sumptuous buffet breakfast in a very relaxing and tranquil dining area and in our lounge you will be spoilt with comfortable coaches to sip on a sundowner after a tiring day out or just to connect with the outside world via Wi-Fi. The premises offers secure parking at all times. Facilities include disabled access, free Wi-Fi internet, televisions in all the rooms, under floor heating in all rooms and conference facilities.



#### **Day 4: Swakopmund**

In the morning we will visit Freshwater pans at the edge of town, which are home to other wetlands inhabitants, such as Black-necked Grebe, Cape and Redbilled Teals and the Cape Shoveler

Enjoy the afternoon at leisure, to enjoy some of the Germans shops and cafes in this unique town. The cobbled stone lanes are filled with a rich diversity of shops offering local produce and with souvenirs or a stroll along the beach front.

Lunch is for own account. Dinner is included at a local Swakopmund Bay Restaurant. Finish dinner and return back to your hotel.

Lunch is for own account. Dinner is included at a local Swakopmund Bay Restaurant, Swakopmund Brauhaus or similar. To enjoy the unique German Heritage of this town, after dinner return back to your hotel.

#### **Day 5: Swakopmund to Damaraland**

This morning after breakfast and check our procedures, you will be met by your guide and enjoy a visit to the Cape Cross Seal Colony. Cape Cross Seal Reserve, home to the largest breeding colony of these seals on the planet, with at times up to 210,000 seals present during November and December. But it hasn't always been a cacophony of bleats and barks filling the air.

Today, we leave early for the Spitzkoppe, a series of impressive graniteinselbergs rising out of the desert plains. Here we will explore the famed Welwitschia Plains where we will seek out one of the world's most bizarre plants. Welwitschia mirabilis, which is a carnivorous plant that despite its immense age, grows to just a few feet tall and only has two leaves. They survive in the bone dry gravel plains of the Namib. We will also look out for two species of colourful beetles that only survive around these unique plants.



This is a good site for Herero Chat, Namibia's most elusive endemic, but we will require luck and patience to find this localized bird. Whilst searching the base of this incredible geological formation, we may also find Augur Buzzard, the attractive Rosy-faced Lovebird, the near-endemic Bradfield's Swift, Acacia Pied Barbet, Sabota and Karoo Long-billed Larks, Layard's Warbler, Yellow-bellied Eremomela, Bokmakierie (a near-endemic bushshrike), White-browed Sparrow-Weaver, White-throated Canary and Cinnamon breasted and Cape Buntings. White-tailed Shrike, arguably Namibia's most striking endemic, should also entertain us here.

The agile Klipspringer and Rock Hyrax may also be seen, whilst brilliantly coloured Namibia Rock Agamas are common. Other reptiles we may encounter in this area are the impressive Boulton's Namib Day Gecko, Bibron's Gecko, Bradfield's Dwarf Gecko and Namaqua Sand Lizard. The surrounding gravel plains occasionally produce Ludwig's Bustard, whilst Namaqua Sandgrouse, Stark's Lark and Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark are more regular.



Leaving the coastal plains behind us, we will continue northwards, scanning suitable habitat for Burchell's Courser en route. Luck and patience are needed to find this species as it is nomadic and hence unpredictable, however the likes of the beautiful Double-banded Courser and flocks of Spikeheeled Lark should entertain us while we search. Further to the north, we will search for the endemic Rüppell's Parrot, the localized Violet Wood Hoopoe and the handsome Southern Pied Babbler.

### **2 nights at the Brandberg White Lady Lodge – Double Dinner, Bed & Breakfast**

The Brandberg White Lady Lodge, which opened in 2004, has become a choice destination for nature-orientated tourists from all parts of the globe. This is a place where you will feel at home and enjoy true warm-hearted hospitality and friendship. Here, at the foot of Namibia's highest mountain, nothing has changed since the earth's early days. Clocks and watches are not part of this world. Here, time and tranquillity is the 'name of the game'.

At the Brandberg White Lady Lodge we offer accommodation in Chalets, Rooms and Luxury Tents, all with en-suite facilities. The stylish Chalets and Rooms are spread over an area in the river valley, among large shady trees, and feature a private veranda, electric lights and ceiling fans. The large Luxury Tents are fully furnished with double base beds, braai and en-suite facilities. At the lodge you will find a fully licensed restaurant with classic Namibian food and a well-stocked bar. There is also a lounge and large pool area. Breakfast, lunch, dinner and lunch packs are available on request.

There is a lot to discover in the area around the lodge, including the Ugab River Valley, the Brandberg Mountain, the Damaraland with Doros and Messum Crater. The Ugab River Valley, with its old trees and green bushes, is homestead for a wide variety of game, birds, fascinating reptiles and insects.



There is a lot to discover in the area around the lodge, including the Ugab River Valley, the Brandberg Mountain, the Damaraland with Doros and Messum Crater. The Ugab River Valley, with its old trees and green bushes, is homestead for meerkats and a wide variety of game, birds, fascinating reptiles and insects.

**Day 7: Brandberg White Lady Lodge, Damaraland.**

This morning, you will enjoy a 3 hour Elephant Drive. **(FOR OWN ACCOUNT)**

Lunch is included at Brandberg White Lady Lodge.

In the afternoon enjoy a walk to the White Lady. The formation of the Brandberg massive unveils its treasures and secrets to the knowing eye of the geologist. Its sublime beauty nobody can evade. A visit to the "White Lady", perhaps the world's most famous rock painting, is a half-day excursion from our lodge. The footpath to the site offers spectacular views into the open plains of the Damaraland. The Stone Age rock paintings of the San bushmen give evidence of the presence of the famous desert elephants in the area many thousand years ago.



**Day 8:** This morning after breakfast, check out of the lodge and we take with us picnic baskets for a Other species in this area include the spectacular Secretary Bird, Bateleur, Shikra, Helmeted Guineafowl, Fawn-coloured Lark, flocks of quizzical White-crested Helmetshrike, Southern White-crowned Shrike and Yellow-throated Petronia. The camp itself is an excellent location for finding roosting owls and we hope to locate Southern White-faced and African Scops Owls, and possibly even Western Barn Owl.



Here, too, we will have an opportunity to spend time at a floodlit waterhole after dark. The evening's pageant is likely to commence again with hundreds of sandgrouse flying in to drink, with later visitors including nightjars, owls and a plethora of mammalian possibilities. African Elephant, Black Rhinoceros and Greater Kudu are regular, whilst porcupine, African Wild Cat, Leopard and even the bizarre Aardvark have all been seen drinking here.

Honey Badger sometimes makes a nuisance of itself in the camp, rummaging through rubbish bins in search of scraps, and if we are fortunate we may locate a few of these curious animals.



**2 nights at Halali Camp – 2 bedrooms Bush Chalets  
Bed and Breakfast basis**

Strategically located halfway between Okaukuejo and Namutoni, Halali is situated at the base of a dolomite hill, amongst shady Mopane trees. A flood-lit waterhole which is viewed from an elevated vantage point provides exceptional wildlife viewing throughout the day and into the night. Accommodation is provided in family chalets, two and four bed bush chalets and double rooms - all converted with large sliding doors to the outside, to allow visitors to experience and benefit from the peace and tranquillity of the natural surroundings. Other facilities include a restaurant, bar, shop, swimming pool, kiosk and camping facilities.



**Day 9: Etosha National Park.**

Etosha is one of Africa's premier big game destinations and medium and large mammals teem around the huge pan. Waterholes are dotted around the park and these will often be the focus of our attention as it is here that streams of thousands of mammals come daily to drink. On occasion, up to a dozen species of mammal can be seen at once as they mill around the saline water.

Commonly encountered species are the regal Gemsbok, Greater Kudu, Springbok, Giraffe, Elephant, Red Hartebeest, Blue Wildebeest, Common Zebra and Blackfaced Impala. These waterholes don't only attract the attention of thirsty grazers and photographers, but also predators; Black-backed Jackal, African Wild Cat, prides of lazing Lion, Spotted Hyaena and even Cheetah and Leopard are included in the possible suit of carnivores. We will search the open grasslands and sparse Acacia savanna for birds such as the huge Martial and Tawny Eagles, the elegant Rednecked Falcon, Greater Kestrel, the magnificent Kori Bustard (the world's heaviest flying bird), Spotted Thick-knee, Grey-backed Sparrow-Lark, Red-capped and Pink-billed Larks, Capped Wheatear and flocks of angry-looking Scaly-feathered Weaver.



#### **Day 10: Halali to Eastern Etosha.**

We will spend this morning birding the productive mixed woodland and grassland mosaic en route to Namutoni Camp. Our final destination today is a lodge just outside the eastern boundary of the park not far from Namutoni gate.

As we travel eastwards from Halali towards Namutoni, we bid farewell (temporarily!) to the monotypic stands of Mopane and enter Acacia and Terminalia savanna, and will be searching for species we may not yet have encountered, including Burchell's Sandgrouse, White-browed Scrub, Robin and Chinspot Batis, while vultures are often numerous in this area and may include Lappet-faced, Whiteheaded and wheeling flocks of White-backed.

Today we will head back into Etosha for a full day exploring the eastern section of this immense ecosystem. The shallow Fischer's Pan, an eastern extension of the main Etosha Pan, is a notable natural feature of this area and lies to the north of Namutoni camp.

Water levels vary tremendously and the pan is most often completely dry, but if water is present we may find flamingos, huge Saddle-billed and Yellow-billed Storks, Red-billed Teal, South African Shelduck and large numbers of migratory waders. Further to the north of Namutoni lie extensive grassy plains which are sometimes home to large herds of Gemsbok, Springbok and Blue Wildebeest. The unique Secretarybird and elegant Blue Crane are possible here and we may find both Eastern Clapper Lark and the diminutive Desert Cisticola.



Mammals are also plentiful in the dense woodland south of camp and include Spotted Hyaena, African Elephant, Giraffe, Black-faced Impala and two antelope largely restricted to this part of the park: the huge Eland and the diminutive Damara Dik-dik.

Here too we will search for the most elusive of the five babbler species occurring in Namibia, the Black-faced Babbler.

**1 night at Namutoni Camp– 2 bedrooms Bush Chalets  
Bed and Breakfast basis**

Built into an old German Fort Namutoni Camp has a unique atmosphere. Within the fort you will find ample facilities and a variety of accommodation. From the walls of the fort you can enjoy an elevated view of the King Nehale Waterhole allowing for great game viewing without leaving the camp. The walls of the fort are also an excellent spot for sundowners. There is hardly a better way to end a day in the bush and Namibia than to marvel at the colours of the setting sun.

The Camp is situated in the eastern part of Etosha National Park and is accessible via the Von Lindequist Gate. Its close proximity to Fisher's Pan makes Namutoni a hotspot for birders. Two restaurants, a craft shop, a pool and a viewing deck overlooking King Nehale Waterhole make the fort a great place to relax at lunchtime or after evening game drives. The African Fusion restaurant will introduce you to local flavours, while The Steakhouse offers popular western dishes. A superette, curio shop and petrol station allow you to stock up on everything that is necessary and nice.



### **Day 11: Eastern Etosha to East of Rundu**

This morning we depart for the drive eastwards to Rundu, gateway to the Caprivi Strip. Our route takes us through the dense thorn savanna east of Etosha National Park, and then traverses increasingly well-developed woodland.

We arrive at our lodge situated in the north of the country, only 21km east of Rundu.

With time to explore the Rundu “waterworks” to search for such gems as Hottentot Teal, African Swamphen, African Rail, Senegal Coucal, Southern Red Bishop, Thick-billed Weaver and Orange-breasted Waxbill. Our lodge overlooks wetlands situated across the Okavango in Angola and scanning this area may produce Spur-winged Goose, Water Thickknee, Collared Pratincole, Rufous-bellied Heron, Coppery-tailed Coucal.



### **1 night at Nkwazi Double Rooms Dinner, Bed & Breakfast basis**



watching, traditional dances and sundown cruises. Our warm hospitality and enthusiastic service will make your stay a special one.

If what you are looking for is peace and quiet, we have the perfect place for you. A place so unspoiled that while you are there you will experience nature as it was first created. n'Kwazi is a secluded paradise, tucked away amongst lush riverine vegetation on the banks of the perennial Kavango river. Situated 20 kms north-east of Rundu, n'Kwazi combines the tranquillity of a tropical environment with the comforts of a luxury lodge. n'Kwazi's much-praised cuisine a scrumptious buffet in the evening is superb. Activities include canoeing, horse-back trails, bird



## **Day 12: East of Rundu to Mahango, Caprivi**

Our day starts with a short stroll around camp and then breakfast, where after we make your way into the Caprivi Strip and its vast teak woodlands.

These broad-leaved woodlands, support a fairly specialised avifauna, with many of these birds typical of the superficially similar Miombo woodlands of central Africa. White-breasted Cuckooshrike, the richly-coloured Rufous-bellied Tit, Souza's Shrike, Grey Penduline Tit, Green-capped Eremomela, Racket-tailed Roller, Arnot's Chat, Tinkling Cisticola and Breadfields Hornbill are all species we will keep a look out for. Bird densities in the teak woodlands are typically quite low, with the trick to locating birds hinging on our ability to find mixed species flocks.

### **2 nights' at Mahangu Safari Lodge – Double Rooms Dinner Bed & breakfast**

The comfortably-styled, thatched Mahangu Safari Lodge is a new lodge in the Caprivi Region of Namibia, next to the Mahango National Park. The word "Mahangu" meaning "food of the local people". The Lodge comprises of 10 Bungalows, 6 Safari Tents and 3 guide bungalows with shared facilities. All units are air conditioned and have 220V electricity 24/h. Activities include spectacular bird and game viewing by boat, excellent Tiger and Bream fishing and game drives into the 2 National Parks next to us as well as the Popa Falls close by.



h  
a

Enjoy lunch at the lodge.



Some of the animals we could encounter include the furtive Spotted-necked Otter, Hippopotamus and good numbers of Nile Crocodile. If we are extremely lucky, we may spot the shy Sitatunga (a swamp-dwelling antelope). After dinner, we may search in the lodge grounds for Fiery-necked Nightjar.



Some of the animals we could encounter include the furtive Spotted-necked Otter, Hippopotamus and good numbers of Nile Crocodile. If we are extremely lucky, we may spot the shy Sitatunga (a swamp-dwelling antelope). After dinner, we may search in the lodge grounds for Fiery-necked Nightjar.

### **Day 13: Mahango, Caprivi**

Rising with the exuberant dawn chorus, we head out in search of African Barred Owlet, African Wood and the fabulous Pel's Fishing Owl. The lodge grounds are well vegetated and extensive woodland can be found right behind camp! Crested Francolin, African Green Pigeon, Emerald-spotted Wood, Dove, Green Wood Hoopoe, Striped, Kingfisher, Black-collared Barbet, Lesser, Honeyguide, Arrow-marked Babbler, Bennett's, Golden-tailed and Bearded Woodpeckers, Orange-breasted Bushshrike, Retz's Helmetshrike, Grey Tit-Flycatcher, Violet-backed and Meves's Starlings, African Yellow White-eye, Lesser Masked Weaver, the localized Brown Firefinch, Swamp Boubou, Hartlaub's Babbler, Terrestrial Brownbul and White-browed Robin-Chat are all found here.

A wide variety of herons, egrets and kingfishers occur along the river and the extensive papyrus reedbeds adjacent to the lodge are home to Pied, Giant and Malachite Kingfishers, Chirping Cisticola, Greater Swamp Warbler, Holub's Golden and Southern Brown-throated Weavers and Fan-tailed Widowbird. The striking Carmine and elegant White-fronted Bee-eaters breed in the vicinity.

Enjoy lunch at the lodge. Followed by an option game drive (**for own account**), or enjoy the afternoon enjoying the camp surrounds.



**Day 14: Mahango to Caprivi River Lodge, Katima Mulilo**

This morning we will bird a piece of seasonally flooded grassland behind our lodge, and may see Luapula Cisticola and with luck African Snipe, before striking out for Katima Mulilo. Leaving the Okavango River behind us, we continue eastwards through the Caprivi Strip. We travel through Bwabwata National Park, which stretches from the Okavango River east across the Caprivi to the Kwando River, and while driving through the seemingly endless kilometres of Teak woodland will be watchful for Dark Chanting Goshawk and the uncommon Dickinson's Kestrel. En route we will also keep an eye out for the stately Southern Ground Hornbill, which can sometimes be seen in small family groups in woodland alongside the road. We cross the narrow floodplain of the Kwando River, and here we may see Saddle-billed Stork and African Pygmy Goose, before attempting the final 110 km before Katima!

Once in the Katima area, we may search well-wooded areas for the beautiful Schalow's Turaco, before heading out of town to our lodge perched on the banks of the mighty Zambezi River. Good birding is possible around the lodge itself, and we should see Mourning Collared Dove and White browed Robin-Chat around our huts and African Skimmer flying gracefully over the sluggish Zambezi.

*Sitatunga in their wetland habitat*



**2 nights at Caprivi River Lodge – Luxury Chalet  
Dinner Bed and Breakfast Basis**

Situated on the banks of the Mighty Zambezi River, Caprivi River Lodge invites you to enjoy a relaxing, body and soul experience. With beautiful river views from the wooden lunch deck or from under the shade of old indigenous trees so, whether you are a business person, tourist, fisherman or avid bird-watcher the lodge is the perfect place to chill out and relax; Caprivi River Lodge is the perfect spot.

With the numerous National Parks in close proximity; Caprivi River Lodge offers central accommodation enabling easy access to the attractions of this four countries area with plenty of exciting options to explore. It has been said that the Caprivi, "Namibia's Wetland Paradise", is one of Namibia's best kept secrets. From the majestic rivers, rich cultural customs to the vibrant reeds swaying along, the river's edge is full of life. The Caprivi region is an area steeped in wildlife and tradition and as yet undisturbed by western influences. Enjoy lunch & Dinner at the lodge.



#### **Day 15: Katima Mulilo Area**

Today, we have the full day available to explore the exciting areas around our lodge and Katima Mulilo. Wetlands may well yield the likes of the highly sought after Lesser Jacana, Rosy-throated Longclaw, African Pygmy Goose, Rufous-bellied Heron, Slaty Egret, Greater Painted Snipe and flocks of African Openbill, while the extensive grasslands host Rufous-naped Lark and Blackbellied Bustard. Sandbars on the river are the favoured haunt of White-crowned Lapwing, and as the day draws to a close we may get lucky with a sighting of the rare Bat Hawk as it hunts for bats along the edge of the Zambezi.

#### **Day 16: Caprivi to Livingstone.**

After early morning birding along after some final early morning birding along the Zambezi, we will cross into Zambia at Katima Mulilo and head to Livingstone Airport where the tour will end.

There are numerous options to extend your stay in Livingstone and enjoy a variety of activities around the Victoria Falls **(For your own account)**