14 Day Discovering Southern Namibia and South Africa’s Kalahari –
Camping & Accommodated Self Drive 2018
Windhoek - Mariental - Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park - Fish River Canyon - Aus - Sossusvlei - Southern Namibia
14 Days / 13 Nights
Group Size: 2-4
Reference: 14day DSN&SAK C&A SD2018
Date of Issue: 18 December 2017

Click here to view your Digital Itinerary
Overview
This is a stunning self drive trip that encompasses some of the diverse deserts of Southern Africa whilst including major attractions such as Sossusvlei and the Fish River Canyon as well as some great game viewing, predators are plentiful in the Kgalagadi and sightings are normally superb! This is a highly recommended trip to appreciate the incredible landscapes of the south. This safari can also be offered as a fully accommodated option.

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Key
C: Campsite only
SC: Self Catering
B&B: Bed and breakfast
D, B&B: Dinner, bed and breakfast

Price
2018 Rates - manual vehicles

Price per person to Chameleon with Bidvest Car Rental
Based on 2 people sharing with a 4x4 Single Cab with camping equipment & 1 roof tent
Low Season (01/11/17 - 15/06/18) N$21,340
High Season (16/06/18 - 31/10/18) N$25,330
Discounted rates apply from 1 November 2017-28 February 2018 – please enquire

Based on 4 people sharing with a 4x4 Double Cab with camping equipment & 2 roof tents
Low Season (01/11/17 - 15/06/18) N$15,745
High Season (16/06/18 - 31/10/18) N$18,215
Discounted rates apply from 1 November 2017-28 February 2018 – please enquire

OR
Price per person to Chameleon with Namibia Car Rental
Based on 2 people sharing with a 4x4 Single Cab with camping equipment & 1 roof tent
Low Season (01/11/17 - 30/06/18) N$20,360
High Season (01/07/18 - 31/10/18) N$22,110

Based on 2 people sharing with a 4x4 Double Cab with camping equipment & 1 roof tent
Low Season (01/11/17 - 30/06/18) N$21,945
High Season (01/07/18 - 31/10/18) N$24,000

Based on 4 people sharing with a 4x4 Double Cab with camping equipment & 2 roof tents
Low Season (01/11/17 - 30/06/18) N$15,945
High Season (01/07/18 - 31/10/18) N$17,010
(Price valid until 31 October 2018)

Please note that the N$ is fixed to the South African Rand on a 1/1 basis

Included
Camping & accommodation as set out in itinerary; car rental as indicated; meals as stated in itinerary; vat; tourism levy; welcome pack; e-med evacuation insurance

Bidvest Car Rental - zero excess
Includes: Unlimited kms, Super CDW, Super theft loss waiver; Stamp duty, third party liability; VAT; airport surcharge; map, inbound guide; full camping equipment for 2/4 people with 1 (for 2 people) roof tent or 2 (for 4 people) roof tents; 1 spare wheel

Namibia Car Rental – zero excess
Includes: 15% VAT, unlimited kilometres; collision damage waiver; standard tools, second driver; 2 x spare wheels; airport transfers; map; tourism levy; stamp duty; tyre and windshield cover; full camping equipment for 2/4 people with 1 (for 2 people) roof tent or 2 (for 4 people) roof tents

Excluded
International and other flights; visas; fuel; additional meals and optional activities; personal insurance; tips/gratuities; items of a personal nature; curios; entry fees to parks and places of interest; additional for car hire as indicated below, etc

Park entry fees: N$80/person/day and N$10/vehicle day – subject to change - please note that visitors must be in rest camps or outside the park - gates open/close at sunrise/sunset; South Africa TBA

Bidvest Car Rental:
Excludes: Rental deposit N$2980; contract fee N$84; fuel; additional driver per rental N$368; young driver surcharge N$368 per day (18-20 yrs); fine handling fee N$315; claim handling fee N$893; Assessors fee in event damage is greater than N$5000 N$945/incident; baby seat/booster seat N$393/rental; GPS unit N$90/day (deposit N$1000); jerry can N$362/rental (plus refundable deposit of N$110); second spare wheel N$221/day and deposit of N$1100; delivery/collection fee during office hours – Within 25km N$441; Further than 25km N$441 + N$16/km. After hours – Within 25km N$882; Further than 25km N$882 + N$16/km; tyre/windscreen waiver N$85/day combined; water/sand/and undercarriage damage renters account; hail damage N$61/day; towing charges if not mechanical renters account; no show fees – 2 days rental charge; fuel; lost keys surcharge N$690 + replacement of keys; valet service (only if car excessively dirty) - renter account; damage to equipment - renter account; towing - mechanical (Bidvest); towing - accident - renter account; cross border fee to South Africa N$1590

Note: Bidvest Car Rental has offices both in Windhoek City Centre and also at the International Airport – you are able to collect and drop your vehicle at either/both destinations to suit you

Namibia Car Rental
Excludes: Refundable vehicle deposit (N$2000); refundable camping equipment deposit (N$2,000); contract fee
N$75/rental; fuel, overdue rental admin fee N$550; claim admin fee; fines and fine handling fee N$250/incident; sand, water and undercarriage damage; tyre sidewall damage insurance N$75; cross border permits to Botswana, South Africa, Zambia and Zimbabwe - N$550; Young driver (main driver should be 25 years) N$100/day; baby/booster seat N$450/rental; one way fees; tow in/recovery service if not mechanical; lost key call out fee N$8/km; GPS rental N$95/day; additional airport transfers (1 free of charge each way); unscheduled late/early delivery/collection fee within 25km and outside normal office hours N$350; delivery/collection fee for vehicle at Windhoek International Airport N$400; car cleaning fee for excessive dirt N$990 or actual if more; refuelling cost (actual); 12v compressor N$400/rental; first aid kit N$350/rental; fuel canister N$65; water canister N$65; fire extinguisher N$350; sat phone (usage approx N$25/min - client account) N$130/day; damage to equipment - renter account; camping tool set (spade, axe etc) - N$450/rental; sand mats / tracks - N$550/rental

Note: Namibia Car Rental has its office in Windhoek City Centre – they are able to provide airport transfers for you (inclusive of rates 1 x return transfer)

Day 1: The Elegant Guesthouse, Windhoek

Day Itinerary
Upon arrival in Windhoek collect the vehicle and drive to your guesthouse, here you’ll meet one of our tour consultants’ who will go through your travel plans and answer any last-minute questions you may have. Depending on the time of your arrival perhaps choose to wander into the city centre, relax by the pool, or alternatively join an optional township tour, sunset horse ride, or head out for a birding trip. Overnight is in a twin room with en suite facilities on a bed and breakfast basis, all other meals will be at client’s expense. Approx 40 mins from airport (plus time to collect vehicle/complete paperwork)

Consultant Notes
Recommend nearby Joe’s Beer House for dinner - note The Elegant does not have an evening restaurant facility

Windhoek is Namibia’s capital, home to an international airport and a plethora of restaurants, shops, entertainment venues and accommodation options. The city is clean, safe and well-organised, with a colonial legacy that is reflected in its many German eateries and shops, and the widespread use of the German language - though English is the official language. The city has an interesting mix of historical architecture and modern buildings, many of which are worth a look, including the Alte Feste (Old Fort), the 1896 Christuskirche (Christ Church), and the more contemporary Supreme Court. It’s not a city to linger though - generally one or two nights is sufficient.

Overnight: The Elegant Guesthouse
Situated in the up-market residential area of Klein Windhoek, this modern guesthouse consists of 6 comfortable ensuite double rooms with ensuite facilities, tea/coffee facilities, safe and tv. There’s a comfy lounge area, honesty bar,
dining and outdoor area to relax around the swimming pool. An informal destination and ideal for an overnight destination in the capital city. It’s just a few minutes away from shops and infamous Joe’s Beerhouse.

Included
Bed & Breakfast

Day 2: Kalahari Anib Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia, Mariental

Day Itinerary
This morning (after breakfast) head south onto the red dunes of the Kalahari Basin, where you’ll camp for one night. If time permits perhaps join an optional guided nature drive around the reserve to look out for some of the desert adapted wildlife. The Kalahari is famous for the linear dunes, interspersed with grassy valleys, and game such as oryx, springbok, ostrich abound. Approx. 3hrs

Situated in south central Namibia, fringing the Kalahari Desert, the city of Mariental lies along the TransNamib railway and serves as the Hardap Region’s commercial and administrative capital. It provides an important petrol stop before heading west to Sesriem to view the red-orange dunes of Sossusvlei. Mariental is located close to magnificent the Hardap Dam, which is the largest reservoir in Namibia. The Hardap Irrigation Scheme has breathed life into this arid terrain, which is now fertile with farmlands covered in citrus, melons, lucerne, wine and maize, and dotted with ostrich farms. The dam is a popular holiday resort which draws city slickers from Windhoek and offers an array of watersports, scenic walks, and abundant wildlife in a 20000-hectare nature reserve set on its western bank; where visitors can spot rhino, ostrich, antelope, springbok and a variety of bird species.

Overnight: Kalahari Anib Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia
Spend the night under the southern hemisphere skies, under the shade of African trees and shrub savannah of the Kalahari. The 3 campsites have ample space, and each of them is allocated to only one party (max. 4 persons). Each of the sites are equipped with a toilet, shower, basin and barbecue area as well as a shade roof and power point. Camping
guests are welcome to use the swimming pool at Kalahari Anib Lodge (a 5 minutes' walk) as well as the restaurant and bar, and to join optional activities such as sundowner and game drives.

Day 3: Kalahari Tented Camp, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

Day Itinerary
Cross the border into the beautiful Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park, this was Africa’s first official Transfrontier Park combining Kalahari-Gemsbok National Park in South Africa with Gemsbok Park in Botswana. Your first night is near the Mata Mata gate - just a few kms away - a wild tented camp with no fences! There are en-suite tented chalets with an attached kitchen and braai facilities Approx 3 hours to Mata Mata;

Straddling the border of South Africa and Botswana, the Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park is known as one of the jewels of the desert featuring an expansive wilderness scattered with grasslands and red dunes. For a different type of wildlife experience, many tourists head to this north-western corner of South Africa, where the famous Kalahari Desert or, as it is now known, the Kgalagadi, starts. The park is renowned for its predator and raptor viewing, and not surprisingly, its gemsbok, also called oryx; the elegant grey, black and white antelope with their rapier-like horns. Visitors can look forward to many activities including: watching the migrating herds of wildebeest and springbok, spotting other wildlife on a game drive or walking through the African bushveld on a guided walking safari with a park ranger.

Overnight: Kalahari Tented Camp
Situated high up on a red sand dune, overlooking a waterhole in the dry bed of the ancient Auob River, the Kalahari Tented Camp welcomes you to capture the spirit of the land of thirst. This exclusive getaway for the discerning visitor, boasts 15 desert tents each elegantly decorated with rustic finishes using wood, sand and canvas exteriors all in the resonate colours of the park. The tent camp is 3 km from the Mata-Mata Rest Camp where Kalahari Tent Camp residents can refuel and get basic supplies at the shop. The camp is designed in such a way that residents feel they have only themselves and the desert for company.
Included
Self Catering

Day 4-6: Twee Rivieren Rest Camp, Kgalagadi Transfrontier Park

Day Itinerary
The new name of the park refers to the ancient San name for the area and the local communities are actively involved on the land, acting as trackers for lion monitoring programmes, managing sections of it for dune rehabilitation and alien plant eradication, selling crafts etc. You’ll be based in this wonderful park for a further three nights at different locations on a self-catering basis at Kalahari Tented Camp, Nossob, Mata Mata or/and Twee Rivieren, on either a camping or accommodation only basis; all meals at client’s expense. Please note that the accommodation has ensuite facilities but a couple of the camps are a little dated and need a revamp, please also be aware that in many of the camps electricity is run by generator and shuts down overnight. The game viewing will make up for this! Note that accommodation may vary to what has been quoted game drives vary

Overnight: Twee Rivieren Rest Camp
In a setting such as the Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park's, where striking red sand dunes are offset by sparse, hardy vegetation and resilient desert wildlife, Twee Rivieren camp possesses the character and stature of a desert camp to be remembered. Occupying an impressive position on the dry Nossob river bed, the camp is revered for its seasonal migrations of desert herbivores, such as blue wildebeest and red hartebeest, as well as the ever-trailing predators, yielding exciting hunts and game viewing from virtually all corners of the camp. This camp is the administrative headquarters of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park as a whole, and the largest rest camp within its borders.

Alternate: Nossob Rest Camp
If it’s impressive settings that make or break the atmosphere of a rest camp, there’s no question as to what Nossob is made of. Slashed across the dry riverbed of the Nossob, in the middle of one of the area’s impressive tree savannah,
Nossob Rest Camp is made well known for its predator sightings. This 38,000km² park offers the finest in big-five spotting opportunities and self-catering accommodation.

Alternate: Mata Mata Camp
In a park covering a total surface area of roughly 3.8 million hectares (what may be the largest sandveld area in the world), with some of the world's most notable predator viewing, on the South African side of the Kgalagadi Transfrontier National Park lies Mata Mata rest camp. Nestled into the flank of the Auob River, the camp provides basic, rustic accommodation, essential consumables, and stone's-throw access to the surrounding wildlife and vegetation.

Day 7-8: Fish River Lodge, Fish River Canyon

Day Itinerary
Return to Namibia and drive to the Fish River Canyon region, reputed to be the second largest canyon in the world, you’ll be based here for two nights giving ample time to appreciate the scale and harsh beauty of the canyon area. Later, wander along the rim of the canyon to appreciate the sheer scale of this mighty canyon, see the quiver trees, watch the sunset and look out for the cute dassie rats! Dinner, bed and breakfast with additional meals/activities at own expense – it is highly recommended you join an optional activity of a canyon excursion and that it is pre-booked to avoid disappointment – please ask for further details. Approx 5+ hours plus game drive out of park - note the last section to the lodge is on a bumpy road and takes approx 50-60mins.

The country's most spectacular geological site and generally regarded as the main highlight of the "Deep South" is the Fish River Canyon. The famous ravine - reputed to be the second largest in the world, lies in the lower reaches of Namibia’s longest river - The Fish. Over millions of years, it continues to evolve and is 161km long, up to 27km wide and up to 550m deep.
Overnight: Fish River Lodge  [View iBrochure]

Fish River Lodge in southern Namibia is the only lodge perched directly on the rim of the Fish River Canyon offering guests breath-taking views of the canyon from sunrise to sunset. Experience first hand the geological forces that unfolded 300 million years ago, when the Fish River began to etch its way through hard quartzite forming a Canyon 90km long, nearly 550m deep and 28kms wide in some places, making it the world's second largest Canyon. The lodge itself is set within the 45,000 hectare Canyon Nature Park - a natural sanctuary for Karoo succulent flora and endemic wildlife. Incredible hiking trails meander down into the heart of the canyon affording guests spectacular scenery combined with 75km river frontage made up of permanent water holes and rock pools that attract Hartmann's zebra, kudu, oryx, springbok and many other smaller wildlife species and endemic birdlife.

The main lodge offers a lounge, bar and dining area, along with a curio shop, all looking out across the canyon and enjoying the majestic views. A swimming pool, along with loungers share this same view.

Optional
AM Scenic Drive
Canyon Rim Walk
PM Scenic Sundowner

Recommended
Canyon Day Drive (Three Quarter Day)

AM Scenic Drive
The AM scenic drive is the perfect introduction to the geology of this fascinating landscape. The drive will take you around the pristine Canyon Nature Park, passing by some water points which will give you the opportunity to read signs of past animal activities. There will be chances to see general game as well as Karoo Korhaan and Ludwigs Bastard for the bird lovers. Departure times vary from 7:30am in winter to 8:00am in summer. The drive is between 3 to 4 hours before returning to the lodge for lunch. Minimum 2 guests per excursion - Max 9 per vehicle.

Canyon Rim Walk
Awaken your senses with an easy un-guided walk from the lodge along the rim of the canyon, providing spectacular scenery, space to breath & time to reflect. Guided walks are available subject to demand. Our guides are experienced and keen to share their information on the resilient flora and fauna of this harsh environment and stunning geological features. It is recommended to do this walk either early morning or late afternoon.

PM Scenic Sundowner
The afternoon scenic drive will take you on top of the plateau where we will be stopping at two different viewpoints where you can admire the infinite vistas of the Canyon. The guide will also explain the geology, flora and fauna of this fascinating landscape. Watch the sun set while enjoying drinks, snacks and panoramic views of the canyon and meandering Fish River. Departure time from the lodge varies from 15:30pm in winter to 18:00pm in summer, so
Please leave plenty of time when arriving at the lodge by car as this enchanting excursion is not to be missed. Minimum 2 guests per excursion - Max 9 per vehicle.

**Canyon Day Drive (Three Quarter Day)**
Experience an amazing variety of geological features as you journey into the depths of the second largest canyon in the world. See rough limestone, shiny quartzite, fine shale and dramatic fault lines. Catch your breath as you take in the dramatic views of the river before descending into the base of the canyon for refreshments by the river. The excursion is approximately 7 hours. Departure time from the lodge – After an early breakfast at 06h30 during summer time and 07h00 during winter time. Minimum 2 guests per excursion - Max 9 per vehicle.

**Included**
Dinner, Bed and Breakfast

**Day 9-10: Klein-Aus Vista Desert Horse Campsite Gondwana Collection Namibia, Aus**

**Day Itinerary**
Onward to one of the best kept secrets of Namibia - Klein Aus, a truly beautiful spot, situated on the edge of the desert with endless views of open plains and mountains. You’ll be based here for 2 nights and have time to enjoy optional activities, alternatively you may simply relax and soak up the atmosphere of this stunning region. Enjoy self-guided hikes or mountain bike trails in the Aus Mountains, or take a day trip to Luderitz and visit Kolmanskop Ghost Town, a tribute to the diamond mining of the past, you can also visit the wild horses of the Namib, one of only 2 or 3 truly recognized wild herds of horses in the world and be amazed at how they survive in this harsh environment. Overnight camping, all meals will be at client’s expense. *Approx 4 hours*

Perched above the plains of the Namib Desert and tucked away in the rocky Aus Mountains, the small village of Aus is located in the Karas Region in southern Namibia. The arid surrounding landscape is known for its unique botanical diversity. Aus serves as an excellent base from which to explore the area and to view the main attraction: the feral horses of the Namib Desert, which run wild and free in the sparsely vegetated plains. Catch a glimpse of these wild desert-adapted creatures at the water trough at Garub just twenty kilometres away from the village. Visitors can explore the Succulent Karoo with a visit to the beautiful Gondwana Sperrgebiet Rand Park, home to the most biodiverse desert in the world, and take a scenic hike to discover fascinating indigenous fauna and flora. Don’t miss the opportunity to camp under the clear Namibian night sky and view the vast desert landscape on horseback.
Large old camel thorn trees greet camping guests at the Desert Horse Campsite in a small valley of the Aus Mountains. Each of the ten sites is equipped with a tap, table, grill and windbreak. Neat shower and toilet facilities are within easy reach of each site. Barbecue packs are available at the reception of Desert Horse Inn (1.5 km); those who like to skip cooking for a change are more than welcome at the Inn’s restaurant (subject to space available, please enquire upon arrival). Note there are no power point outlets at the Desert Horse camp. If you have equipment that need to be charged it can be done at reception of Desert Horse Inn.

Luderitz
This coastal town is something of an anomaly – a piece of 19th century Bavaria bordering the pinkish sand dunes of the Namib Desert. Lutheran churches, German bakeries and colonial buildings are dotted about the settlement, while its windswept beaches are home to flamingos, ostriches, seals and penguins. The nearby ghost town of Kolmanskop is one of the most fascinating area attractions, located approximately 10 kilometres from Luderitz central. Back in 1908 a railway worker found a sparkling stone and handed it to his supervisor - this stone (a diamond) started a frantic rush as fortune hunters came in search for wealth. The town grew - fresh water was bought up from South Africa, and a German culture prevailed - a bowling alley, a competition for "Miss Kolmanskop" was held, Southern Africa’s first x-ray machine came from here and over 1100 people lived here - no mean feat considering the harshness of the desert. The Luderitz Peninsula has a varied coastline, sandy beaches, Agate Beach (famous for its agates no less!) rocky shores, Bogenfels (rock arch), a penguin colony and seal colonies. Jackals roam the area along with brown hyena, springbok and other adapted species. You can drive around the Peninsula but to get into the Sperrgebiet area you’ll need a local operator to take you. However, it’s not a place to sit on the beach and enjoy the sunshine, the wind howls, the air is chilly as Benguela Current serves this region from Antarctica (that explains the penguins).

Kolmanskop
Amongst the sands of the Namib, the crumbling buildings of a small, once-luxurious town emerge from the drifting dunes. This ghost town is Kolmanskop, a reminder of the wealth of a time when diamonds could be picked by hand from the desert, and a remarkable photographic opportunity with few equals anywhere on earth.
**Wild Horses of the Namib**

Fighting for a life in freedom they hold an irresistible fascination: the Wild Horses of the Namib in south-western Namibia. For centuries their origin was shrouded in mystery. Their habitat, the barren plains around Garub on the eastern fringe of the Namib Desert, is no paradise; nevertheless, they have managed to adapt to the harsh conditions. Their forebears, once in the service of man, gained freedom for themselves: a life in the vastness of the Namib, away from human civilization, according to the rules of their own horse society. Perhaps this is the reason for the fascination of thousands of visitors every year. Plans for moving the herd to farms have been discarded by now: it has been decided that also in future the horses’ place is in Namib Naukluft Park.

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**Day 11-12: Sesriem Campsite, Sossusvlei**

**Day Itinerary**

Enjoy the stunning scenery on the drive to Sesriem, located inside the Namib Naukluft National Park; this is an ideal location to explore the park. This afternoon perhaps visit Elim’s Dune for sunset and the following morning venture to the dunes of Sossusvlei. Once here, you can spend several hours wandering around and climbing the dunes, or resting under the shade of the trees appreciating the scale and beauty of the area. Ensure you visit nearby Dead Vlei, where ancient and skeletal camel thorn trees stand on the white pan with the backdrop of orange sand dunes and blue sky, a photographer’s delight before returning to camp. Later this afternoon you can head to nearby Sesriem Canyon. Note we do not recommend driving the last section (4x4 only unless you are an experienced sand driver but instead walk or take the NWR shuttle service situated at the 2x4 car park). Overnight camping only with shared ablutions, there is a small shop, bar and restaurant on site. **Approx 5 hours**
Sossusvlei is where you will find the iconic red sand dunes within the Namib Naukluft National Park. The clear blue skies contrast with the giant red sand dunes to make this one of the natural wonders of Africa and a photographers' heaven. Perhaps the most iconic is the stunning Dead Vlei where the dazzling white clay pan is punctuated by skeletons of ancient camel-thorn trees, and set against the backdrop of the apricot dunes. Aside from the attractions at Sossusvlei - Dune 45, Hiddenvlei, Big Daddy and Elim’s Dune - other attractions in the area include the Sesriem Canyon and Namib-Naukluft National Park, where the mountains of the Namib meet its plains and a great hiking destination.

**Overnight: Sesriem Campsite**

Sesriem derives its name from the time when earlier pioneers tied six lengths of rawhide thongs (riem) together to draw water from the pools. There are 24 campsites with shared ablution blocks offering toilets/showers and washing up facilities there is also a fuel station, small store and restaurant/bar, along with a refreshing pool. Most of the campsites are set under the shade of a camel-thorn tree and have a low wall built around the site, there's a tap and some have electric point. Sesriem is the only campsite inside the national park and guests benefit from the park entrance gate opening 1 hour prior to sunrise enabling guests to enter the park and drive to the dune sea for sunrise - those staying outside the park can only enter at sunrise.

**Dead Vlei**

This ancient clay pan was once an oasis, studded with acacias and fed by a river that suddenly changed course, leaving the earth to dry up along with the trees it previously supported. So dry were the climatic conditions that the trees never decomposed – instead they were entirely leached of moisture so that today, 900 years later, they remain as desiccated, blackened sentinels dotting the pan’s cracked surface. Surrounded by the red-pink dunes of the Namib Desert, blue skies, a white-clay pan, they create a surreal spectacle that is a photographer’s dream.

**Dune 45**

Dune 45 is located 45kms from the Sesriem gate, (and entrance to dunes), it is renowned for its elegant shape, which – along with its position close to the road – has earned it the distinction of ‘most photographed dune in the world’. Popular for sunrise, many people climb to gain a vantage point to watch the sun rise over the surrounding area and enjoy the changing colour of the dunes, at only 80 metres and featuring a much gentler gradient it is an easier climb than many of the other dunes found.
**Sesriem Canyon**

Sesriem Canyon, a deep chasm carved through the rocks by water, is a striking natural feature of the area that is best explored on foot. Stony walls rise up sharply on both sides of the canyon, while birds roost in its crags and lizards dart along the ledges. The canyon’s name was coined when early settlers used it as a water source, using six lengths of leather (‘ses riem – six thongs) tied together to lower buckets into the water at the base of canyon.

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**Day 13: Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate, Southern Namibia**

**Day Itinerary**

It’s a short drive today of around 1.5-2hours to the Tsaris Mountains and onward to Neuras. Perhaps later, enjoy an optional activity such as a little wine tasting & tour, or a cheetah feeding excursion. Neuras is one of just a handful of wineries in Namibia. Self-catering unit - all meals/activities at client’s expense. *Approx 1.5-2hours*

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**SOUTHERN NAMIBIA**

Southern Namibia offers a harsh but beautiful environment, from the Orange River up to the Central Namibian highlands and between two deserts Southern Namibia is epitomised by vast, slowly changing landscapes. It is renowned for its huge open vistas, endless skies and destinations such as the Fish River Canyon, Sossusvlei dunes and Kalahari Desert.

**Overnight: Neuras Wine & Wildlife Estate**

In the local Koikoi language, Neuras means the ‘place of abandoned water’. Neuras Estate owes its early existence as a farm to the presence of several crystal clear cold-water springs and dates back to 1894. Accommodation options at
the Neuras Estates gives visitors a comfortable and ecologically sound way to enjoy the desert. Activities at Neuras is ideal for various enthusiasts such as wine connoisseurs, wildlife enthusiasts, hikers, geologists, as well as film and photography enthusiasts. Simple, en-suite farm style rooms are available. No air con/wifi!

Optional
Wine Tour & Tasting
Cheetah Feeding

Wine Tour & Tasting
Vineyard tour, explanation form the growing of the grapes to the processing of the wine up to the bottling & labelling and best kept for last with the tasting of the Truly Namibian wines - 1.5 hour

Cheetah Feeding
Watch the cheetahs being fed by our experienced guides and listen to their stories. It is also a unique up close photographic opportunity.

Included
Self-Catering

Day 14: Departure

Day Itinerary
Return to Windhoek today, where you’ll drop off your rental vehicle and connect with your onward flight. No flights prior to mid-afternoon (drive approx 3.5-4hours to city plus 45mins to airport). End of services

Consultant Notes
As with all car hire companies if you have an accident and they prove you were negligent – for example - speeding then the zero excess becomes void and you are liable. You will complete the contract and discuss any extras with the car rental company upon collection of the vehicle – please check the vehicle carefully as you are responsible for it thereafter. If you have any problems with the car whilst you are on the road please contact them directly. With all car rentals you will need to provide your passport, driving licence (written in English or an international licence), as well as supply credit card for refundable deposit. For this trip you will need a cross border letter from the rental company

Fully equipped vehicles are provided with 1 or 2 roof tents (as indicated above, along with full camping equipment – essentially all you will need for day to day travelling including table/chairs; and general kitchen/cooking equipment. A GPS is often available by the car rental companies (at clients own expense), however, we find that due to our road
network system (and small population), it is not normally required, we realize this is a personal preference and are happy to pre-book for you. Outside of major cities/town please do not drive around/after sunset

Travel times: When we give travel times in the itinerary please note these are a guideline and perhaps will only in one brief stop travelling at average speed – some clients will drive slower or stop multiple times enjoying longer breaks and therefore journeys will take longer. We recommend most days when travelling onto another destination to leave after breakfast to allow plenty of time to arrive in plenty of time and enjoy the location

Please note that this quote is based on the availability of both camping/vehicle and on the understanding that no trip has been booked. Should we need to use alternative options the price and itinerary is subject to change

Namibia is an incredible country to visit but please remember that we are in Africa and that not all standards are the same as you would get in Europe or other first world countries. To the majority of our clients, that is part of the appeal of travelling to destinations such as ours. If you are not comfortable with new challenges then you may wish to consider other companies or destinations. Please also note that due to the location of destinations, some long days are inevitable - you’ll travel on gravel roads which can vary in quality depending on the season and maintenance work carried out – please do not drive off road as the Namibian/SA landscape is extremely fragile so please follow only well-defined roads (we provide you with a map and suggested route to take once bookings are completed with us, and try to ensure the most suitable/direct/scenic route is taken). Deviating off existing roads not only spoils the scenery and enjoyment of others, but also destroys plants and small creatures, please also note that the majority of vehicles have a tracking device and should you damage your vehicle in any way and the route deemed unsuitable you will be held liable for the damage. More details regarding how to drive on gravel roads and in Namibia/surrounding countries is given with our “car rules and regulations” document issued with your self-drive confirmation

Money: The currency in Namibia is the Namibia Dollar, which is fixed to and equals the South African Rand on a 1-1 basis. The dollar and SA Rand are the only legal tender in Namibia and both are used freely, however the Nam dollar is not legal tender in South Africa and we recommend that you exchange your money prior to departing Namibia

Credit Cards: Visa and MasterCard are generally accepted in shops and restaurants in towns and many lodges. Use of credit cards may incur an additional fee. Occasionally lines may be down and services not available particularly in remote destinations and payment will need to be in cash so it is best not to rely on cards

Cash: South African rand can be purchased in advance. The Namibia dollar is not an international currency and therefore can only be obtained in country. Cash is available at ATM machines using credit card and pin number. There is FX bureau upon arrival at International Airport for those arriving by air and can be worth obtaining prior to arriving in city. It is customary to tip in Namibia, usually, around 10% at restaurants. There are limited options to withdraw cash in Kgalagadi and SA rand is legal tender - Nam dollars are not worth 1/1 in SA.

Safety: As with every destination safety tips needs to be adhered to; we strongly recommend you use a safe in a hotel/lodge or lock up your valuables when you are not in the room; when in a vehicle do not leave valuables on display but tucked away and out of sight. It is also better to have copies of passports, money; cards etc split between travellers so if anything unexpected happens and a bag is lost or stolen then other funds/cards are available, you may also wish to consider using a money belt/neck wallet. We suggest you leave valuable jewellery at home – you won’t need it while travelling. A padlock for your luggage is also recommended

Booking & payment: When you have decided on a trip a booking form will need to be completed, signed and returned to us and we will enquire regarding availability and advise you. Once we have taken deposit, a confirmation is sent to you, advising you of the services agreed and booked. Payment is due approximately 6 weeks (sometimes 8 weeks depending on the supplier) prior to departure. Exchange 4 free, bank transfers and MasterCard/Visa are all accepted forms of payment but please ensure there are sufficient funds and your bank is aware of the transaction about to take
place (if you are paying via credit card), in this day and age many banks will withhold money as a safeguard against fraud and this delay can be critical particularly if you are booking at short notice. Please also allow for payment to process and if paying via bank transfer to include all bank fees, note we are unable to confirm bookings/trip until funds have cleared into our account, any delay may see a cancellation in your trip and booking released.

Dietary: We can assist with booking of various dietary requirements or food allergies but we appreciate your details when you book with us (or with your agent) and we will advise the appropriate lodges. Please be aware that the choice and options may not be as great as your home country. When camping if you are preparing meals then obviously you have more choice and freedom to prepare what suits you.

Weather: Please note that in winter evenings and nights in particular can be very cold we recommend layered clothing – day time temps can be 25°C so t-shirts and shorts is great for then but thermals are very useful for evenings/night. Summer temperatures can exceed 40°C but also bring our rainy season so a lightweight rain jacket is handy, as with most places layering is the most recommended way of clothing – please ensure you pack your clothes in plastic bags and ensure cameras/electrical equipment is suitably protected

Climate: The African sun is very strong. Please use a factor 30 sunscreen and wear a hat. You should drink at least 3 litres of water per day to avoid dehydration. It can also get very cold during winter months on this route

Electrical: plugs are 220V and are 3 pin (round pin as opposed to square pin). Adaptors can be purchased in Windhoek and most international airports; they are the same as South Africa if you are shopping in home country or at airport. Some lodges will also offer 2pin sockets or adaptors but please do not rely on this, it is much better to bring your own. It is possible to re-charge batteries at most lodges but clients must be responsible for security of their possessions. We recommend you have plenty of spare batteries to be on the safe side and additional memory cards for cameras and note that not all campsites will have electric points so consider bringing a charger for the vehicle

Insurance: It is essential that you purchase comprehensive personal travel insurance before you embark on your holiday, medical insurance is insufficient. Travel insurance is for your own protection and should include evacuation; we also recommend full cover for baggage loss etc and consider it to be an essential part of modern international travel. We recommend www.worldnomads.com as an insurance option. If you have credit card insurance – please contact your bank for these details prior to arriving in-country. If you are uncertain whether this is enough please contact us when you book to ensure you have adequate cover

Health: Namibia is a low risk malarial destination but we recommend that seek professional medical advice to enable you to make decisions on personal malaria protection. Southern Namibia and Kgalagadi is malaria free. No vaccinations are required by law for the countries being visited on this tour though we recommend clients are up to date with vaccinations of TB, hepatitis, polio etc

Water: Most tap water in Namibia and South Africa has been purified or comes directly from boreholes and is safe to drink. Tap water is generally safe to drink but bottled mineral water is easily available at shops and rest camps should you prefer to drink this, at lodges it is provided (often at extra cost). Water in the Kgalagadi Park is very salty, ok for washing but not ok for drinking, so suggest you take water in with you

Visas: The onus is on the client to organize all visas required for clients prior to departure. Please ensure that your passport is valid for at least six months after your scheduled departure date country of travel and has sufficient empty pages. If this is not the case, there is a danger of being turned away by the Immigration Service on arrival at the airport – assuming your airline has agreed to bring you and risk a fine in the first place. The Company cannot be held liable for any necessary visas or other travel documents not held by the clients. Please also note that if your passport requires a visa for the countries you visit and multiple entries if necessary, you will need to carry your passport with you during the trip
Responsible Tourism: When we put together an itinerary for you, our aim is to try to ensure you have the experience of a lifetime, we strongly believe in low impact or positive impact tourism. Furthermore, our responsibility to the country/ies you visit and the environment is to try our best to ensure that all benefit – whether that is a small, local operator, local community or conservation programme. Your itinerary may include visits a “local community/village” which will enable you to directly assist and barter for a piece of jewellery; perhaps overnight at a locally-owned campsite or lodge; maybe a local guide takes you to a place of interest or site; or visit an organization set up to protect endangered animals and species that occur naturally in the country. We will give you an insight into these initiatives but if you want more information please ask. Note that these initiatives vary according to the region travelled and what is available), remember your safety and enjoyment is also of paramount importance so we will not for example, use a camp site located in a place we consider unsuitable. Please also follow some of the notes we issue in our pre-departure information to minimise the effects of negative tourism on local cultures (respect for others and their beliefs etc). Generally, we prefer not to use large, international hotel chains as much of the revenue leaves the country but again, should you prefer this option we are happy to oblige.

Pre and Post Tour Accommodation: If you require accommodation before or after your tour we can arrange this for you

If you have any questions at all, please do not hesitate to contact us.
Tel: +264 61 309387 Fax: + 264 61 220885
Email – info@chameleonholidays.com Web - www.chameleonholidays.com
Skype- chameleon.holidays Facebook – Chameleon Holidays