NAMIBIA: DUNES, BLOOMS, AND WILDLIFE

APRIL 22 – MAY 5, 2023
$9,495 PER PERSON

Known as “the land of contrasts” Namibia bestows some of the most fascinating landscapes in the world. Home to the oldest desert on earth and towering sand dunes, the arid nation surprises visitors with its diversity and abundance of wildlife and scenery. The desert unveils thousands of animals including black and white rhino, leopards, rare black-faced impala, elephants, and giraffes. The Skeleton Coast has birds like pale chanting goshawk, booted eagles, steenbok, and African penguins flocking amongst thousands of seals and dolphins.

Namibia’s devotion to the conservation and protection of natural resources and biological diversity is on display across the country from the Cheetah Conservation Fund to the protection of the most bizarre plant in the world, Welwitschia mirabilis, and 200-million-year-old dinosaur footprints. A country rooted in history and sprawling with adventure, Namibia is an explorer’s paradise.

Why Eureka?

eu·re·ka: a cry of joy or satisfaction when one finds or discovers something.

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A Eureka Trip

ITINERARY

DAYS 1/2/3 | APR. 22/23/24
Depart home on your way to Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. Depending on where you are flying from, you will most likely depart the US on Apr. 22 and arrive to Windhoek on Apr. 24. Enjoy free time for the rest of the day to explore this quaint town. Take a walk to see the blend of modern architecture with German colonial era buildings surrounded by remarkable mountains and hills. This evening settle into AM Weinberg Boutique Hotel for an evening at leisure.

DAY 4 | APR. 25
Today, take a scenic drive to Waterberg Plateau National Park. Enjoy a wide selection of activities including: learning about the local Herero culture on an informative village tour, tracking rhino on a guided safari, exploring the Waterberg’s 31-mile-long and 9.9-mile wide sandstone plateau, dubbed ‘table mountain,’ and catching a glimpse of the rare and endangered sable and roan antelope. The area’s natural water sources make it a floral hotspot, and the park is blessed with a plethora of plant and animal species, including leopards, rhinoceros, cheetahs, bush babies, ferns, and fig trees. Relax this evening at Waterberg Wilderness Lodge. (B, L, D)

DAY 5 | APR. 26
Spend the day at the Cheetah Conservation Fund (CCF) where you will enjoy a guided tour of the facilities. Meet the director of CCF, Dr. Laurie Marker, and learn about her life’s devotion to the preservation of cheetahs and the farm’s research efforts. You will have a chance to interact with the livestock and Anatolian dogs who protect the wild cheetahs and get an opportunity to see and photograph the rescued cats. (B, L, D)

DAY 6 | APR. 27
After breakfast, drive to Onguma Bush Camp, adjacent to Entosha National Park. Here you will enjoy a game drive in the afternoon which is populated by thousands of animals. Elephant, giraffe, gemsbok, springbok, red hartebeest, eland, wildebeest, zebra, and the rare black-faced impala roam this vast land. (B, L, D)

DAY 7 | APR. 28
Today is devoted to exploring the Etosha National Park. Spend the day exploring various waterholes and marveling in the wide range of species that come to drink and the predators who stalk them. Enjoy a picnic lunch in the park amongst the beautiful landscape and sound of bustling animals. Return back to the lodge for another relaxing evening on the reserve. (B, L, D)

DAY 8 | APR. 29
This morning’s drive takes you south to Damaraland through dramatic scenery changes with different plant species scattered along the hills. Admire the massive Brandberg Mountains and Burnt Mountain that dazzle with shimmering colors when hit by sunlight. This afternoon, explore the rock engravings on the cliffs of Twyfelfontein, inhabited by stone-age hunter-gatherers since approximately 6,000 years ago. Continue to an ancient Petrified Forest and marvel in its history that was established 260 million years ago. Arrive at Mowani Mountain Camp and stargaze the evening away on your private deck. (B, L, D)
DAY 9 | APR. 30
Venture out early this morning in search of desert-adapted elephants that roam, play, and bathe in the dry riverbeds. An abundance of other wildlife resides here including giraffe, secretary bird, pale chanting goshawk, booted eagles, and herds of steenbok and kuku.

Later, visit the Damara Living Museum to observe the traditional Damara way of life and how they are preserving their identity today. This evening, bask in the unobstructed views of the night sky at camp. (B, L, D)

DAY 10 | MAY 1
Depart for the famous and stunning Skeleton Coast of Namibia. Stop at Cape Cross en route to Swakopmund to see the thousands of seals that call this home. Later arrive in Swakopmund where you have a chance to explore this German colonial city. The beaches here offer a great opportunity to see birds such as Damara tern, African black oystercatcher, great crested grebe, and chestnut-banded plover. Relax this evening on the Southern Atlantic Ocean at Swakopmund Strand Hotel. (B, L, D)

DAY 11 | MAY 2
Today takes you to Walvis Bay which provides a most interesting mix of sea and dunes. Enjoy a morning dolphin boat cruise where you will search for flamingos that frequent the lagoon and be greeted by inquisitive seals and bottlenose dolphin that swim up to the boats.

Continue on to Pelican Point where flocks of petrel, pelicans, and even African penguins provide a bird watchers delight. Indulge in locally caught oysters for lunch on board the boat. Finish off the day with a magical sunset tour of the dunes. (B, L, D)

DAY 12 | MAY 3
Enjoy an opportunity to explore the botanical beauty of Namibia with a visit to the Namib-Naukluft Park. Take the Welwitschia Trail to view Namibia’s national plant, the Welwitschia mirabilis. One of the most intriguing and bizarre plants on earth, the Welwitschia is believed to have a lifespan up to 2,000 years and only produces two leaves throughout its lifetime. The grounds of the trail are littered with Welwitschia as well as lichen fields which shows how pristine these lands are.

The afternoon is at leisure for you to explore the quaint town of Swakopmund. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner and reminisce of your adventures in Namibia. (B, L, D)

DAYS 13/14 | MAY 4/5
Bid the rest of the group goodbye and head to the airport for your flight. Arrive back home after experiencing a unique world, one with ancient plants, exciting wildlife, and dramatic landscapes. (B)

Meals included as listed above: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner

Trip Pricing
$9,495 per person, double occupancy
$11,790 per person, single occupancy

Registration
Reserve your place now at: alumni.berkeley.edu/namibia

LECTURER
Dr. Steve Ruzin
Steve Ruzin received his Ph.D. in Botany from UC Berkeley in 1984. He currently directs the Biological Imaging Facility at UC Berkeley, is Curator of the Golub Collection of antique microscopes at UCB, and teaches one UCB course. Steve has a classical education in Botany and is knowledgeable about the natural history and biogeography of plants, especially those of tropical and sub-tropical regions around the world.

Steve has lectured for Cal Discoveries about the plant biogeography of Borneo, Patagonia, Australia, New Zealand, Vietnam, the Amazon, Madagascar, and Namibia.

Cal lecturer’s participation cannot be guaranteed and is contingent on a minimum number of paying travelers.
Optional Post-Trip Extension: Sossusvlei

**DAY 1 | MAY 4**
Bid farewell to your fellow tour members and continue your adventure as you drive to Sossusvlei. A good portion of the day is spent getting your feet in the sand. Enjoy exploring and playing in the various dunes, photographing the flora and fauna that call this inhospitable land home including gemsbok, ostrich, springbok, black-backed jackal, and birds. Afterward, visit the Sesriem Canyon, a life sustaining natural phenomenon in the heart of the Namib Desert.

Tonight, settle into Desert Hills Lodge with unspoiled views from your private deck. (B, L, D)

**DAY 2 | MAY 5**
Today, take a drive to Naukluft Mountain Zebra Park, located about an hour from the dunes. This mountainous region provides a contrasting scenery from the dunes. Springs throughout the park allow for incredible plant diversity and offer the chance to have some fun with a 4x4 driving tour and beautiful hiking trails. Return to the lodge this afternoon and enjoy your evening at leisure. (B, L, D)

**DAY 3 | MAY 6**
Your final day in Sossusvlei is mostly at your leisure. Take advantage of the lodge’s wide offering of activities including nature drives and walks on the private reserve. You also have an option, at an additional cost, to embark on a balloon safari that offers a truly unique experience as you soar over the silent and magnificent dunes and desert.

This evening, enjoy a sunset horseback ride observing the dunes change colors with the setting sun. Share a final dinner with your fellow travelers and marvel in the incredible scenery and adventure you experienced together. (B, L, D)

**DAY 4 | MAY 7**
Bid farewell to your group and Namibia as you fly to Windhoek where you will connect with your flight back home. (B)

_Meals included as listed above: B=Breakfast; L=Lunch; D=Dinner_

**Post Tour Pricing**

- $4,595 per person, double occupancy
- $5,495 per person, single occupancy

**Registration**
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_alumni.berkeley.edu/namibia_