NAMIBIA
DUNES, BLOOMS, AND WILDLIFE
Accompanied by Dr. Steve Ruzin
APRIL 22 – MAY 5, 2023
TOUR HIGHLIGHTS

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 goshawks, booted eagles, steenbok, and African penguins flocking amongst 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 a traveler’s paradise.

Benefit from the knowledge and expertise of Dr. Steve Ruzin, director of the Biological Imaging Facility at UC Berkeley, as you experience the incredible biodiversity of Namibia on this once-in-a-lifetime trip!

EXPAND YOUR HORIZONS.

A time-honored tradition since 1969, Cal Discoveries Travel creates learning opportunities for thoughtful travelers. Join great minds on our world-class journeys.
ITINERARY

Days 1 – 3 | April 22–24
WINDHOEK
Depart home for Windhoek, the capital of Namibia. Settle into the AM Weinberg Boutique Hotel for an evening at leisure.

Day 4 | April 25
WINDHOEK/OTJIWARONGO
Enjoy a scenic drive to Waterberg Plateau National Park. Learn about the local Herero culture on a village tour, track rhino on a guided safari, and catch a glimpse of the rare and endangered sable and roan antelope. The park is a plethora of plant and animal species, including leopards and cheetahs. Relax this evening at Waterberg Wilderness Lodge. (B, L, D)

Day 5 | April 26
CHEETAH CONSERVATION FUND (CCF)
Spend the day at the Cheetah Conservation Fund. Meet the director, Dr. Laurie Marker, and enjoy a guided tour to learn about the farm’s preservation and 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 the habitat of the rescued cats. (B, L, D)

Day 6 | April 27
ONGUMA RESERVE
After breakfast, drive to Onguma Bush Camp, adjacent to Etosha National Park. Enjoy an afternoon game drive populated by thousands of animals, including elephants, giraffes, gemsboks, springboks, red hartebeests, elands, wildebeests, zebras, and rare black-faced impalas. (B, L, D)

Day 7 | April 28
ETOSHA NATIONAL PARK
Spend the day at Etosha National Park exploring various waterholes and marveling at 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. Return to the lodge for another relaxing evening on the reserve. (B, L, D)

Day 8 | April 29
SOUTHERN DAMARALAND/TWYFELFONTEIN
Take the scenic drive to Damaraland. Admire the massive Brandberg Mountains and Burnt Mountain that dazzle with shimmering colors in the sunlight. This afternoon, explore the 6,000-year-old rock engravings on the cliffs of Twyfelfontein. Continue on to a 260 million-year-old Petrified Forest. Arrive at Mowani Mountain Camp and stargaze the evening away on your private deck. (B, L, D)

Day 9 | April 30
SOUTHERN DAMARALAND
Venture out early morning in search of elephants that play and bathe in the dry riverbeds. An abundance of wildlife resides here including giraffes, secretary birds, pale chanting goshawks, booted eagles, steenbok, and kudu. Later, visit the Damara Living Museum to observe the traditional Damara way of life. This evening, bask in the unobstructed views of the night sky at camp. (B, L, D)

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

Experience trips built with you in mind — handcrafted itineraries created by UC Berkeley travel experts.

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What to expect: These trips feature long touring days with travel via motor coach, ship, zodiac, all-terrain vehicle, or train. Travelers are required to board transportation without assistance as well as stand and walk over uneven terrain for extended periods of time. Some tours may include optional higher-intensity activities and travel at higher altitudes with steep ascents and descents. Outings last four to six hours most days.

Suitable for: Travelers who are able to comfortably walk four to six miles, or 6,900–9,200 steps, each day.

For more information on physical requirements, please visit alumni.berkeley.edu/activityrating.
Day 10 | May 1
SKELETON COAST/SWAKOPMUND
Depart for the stunning Skeleton Coast of Namibia. Stop at Cape Cross en route to see the seals that call this coast home. Later, explore the German colonial city of Swakopmund. The beaches offer a great opportunity to see birds such as the Damara tern, African black oystercatcher, great crested grebe, and chestnut-banded plover. Relax this evening at the oceanfront hotel. (B, L, D)

Day 11 | May 2
WALVIS BAY
Today takes you to Walvis Bay for a morning boat cruise to search for flamingos that frequent the lagoon and be greeted by inquisitive seals and bottlenose dolphins that swim up to the boats. Continue on to Pelican Point, where flocks of petrels, pelicans, and penguins provide a bird watcher’s delight. Indulge in locally caught oysters for lunch on board the boat. Finish the day with a magical sunset tour of the dunes. (B, L, D)

Day 12 | May 3
NAMIB-NAUKLUFT PARK/SWAKOPMUND
Explore the botanical beauty of Namibia in Namib-Naukluft Park. Take the Welwitschia Trail to view Namibia’s national plant, the Welwitschia mirabilis. The afternoon is at leisure for you to explore the quaint town of Swakopmund. Tonight, enjoy a farewell dinner. (B, L, D)

Days 13 –14 | May 4 –5
IN TRANSIT
Have breakfast, bid the group goodbye, and head to the airport for your flight home. (B)

Meals included: B = Breakfast, L = Lunch, D = Dinner

MAIN TRIP
Price per person
$9,495 based on double occupancy; $11,790 single occupancy

Optional Post-trip Extension: Sossusvlei
MAY 4 –7
PRICE PER PERSON
$4,595 based on double occupancy
$5,494 single occupancy
Detailed itinerary for trip extension available at alumni.berkeley.edu/namibia

ABOUT THE LECTURER
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 UC Berkeley, and teaches two courses at Cal. 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, and Madagascar.

Cal lecturer’s participation cannot be guaranteed and is contingent on a minimum number of paying travelers.

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Cancellations for any reason received prior to the final payment due date, 120 days before departure, are fully refundable.

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