



# CHARLY'S DESERT TOURS

Operators of Namib Desert Tours and Overland Safaris since 1966



## NAMAQUALAND

Windhoek or Cape Town can be used as point of departure for this safari. Should your journey start in Windhoek, Namibia, your adventure will commence with a spectacular experience: let the magic of the desert with its colourful sand dunes and rock formations enchant you – the tranquil atmosphere and solitude will make your African adventure an unforgettable experience and the breathtaking sunsets will be a sight never to be forgotten.

The southern part of the Namibian coast has a unique flair. Towns such as Lüderitzbucht have kept their charm in a region where the discovery of diamonds attracted adventurers and fortune-seekers to the new colony towards the close of the nineteenth century. Settlements such as Pomona and Elizabeth Bay sprang up like mushrooms and wealth and luxury were the order of the day. Luxurious items were imported from Europe and an enormous scope of cultural activities brought variety to those working in the desert. However, the diamond fever did not last for long. The desert sand, supported by its accomplices, the continuous southwest winds, began to conquer back the mining grounds and settlements; on your journey through such a ghost town not much imagination is needed to relive the past.

From a geological point of view the Fish River also has a long tale to tell. An awe-inspiring vista of the "Grand Canyon of Africa" will be possible on your way towards the South African border. The warm anabatic winds at the edge of the canyon will make you forget the daily grind and prepare you for your arrival in a wonderland.

The magic of the Namaqualand in South Africa comprises picturesque rock formations, roaring waterfalls, rejoicing bird-, animal and botanic life. The true magic which will provide you with a tangible experience of fascination and enchantment however materializes in a unique annual phenomenon.

Each year, during the rainy season from August to September, the Namaqualand brings to the fore a spectacular exhibition of floral beauty, when virtually overnight the seemingly barren landscape is turned into a floral carpet. The colourful beauty attracts botanists from all around the globe hoping to find a new species among the so far more than 4000 known plant types.

Not only is this floral display unique, but also the people living in this region, as they, having become humble and patient due to the challenging conditions prevailing during the 'dry' seasons, gratefully accept the challenges provided by the landscape and the weather and, as a matter of course, their way of life is characterized by hospitality, sincerity and a willingness to help. As a European one feels transported back to past times.

Welcome to Niewoudtville, THE WORLD CAPITAL OF BULBS! Nowhere in the world do so many types of lilies grow as here, and every botanic expert will be fascinated. After a stroll through the sleepy Clanwilliam and a visit to the 'Ramskop Nature Reserve' we have to say goodbye to Namaqualand and are confronted with impressions of the Cape in Lambertsbay. This little village situated on the west coast is a metaphor of tranquillity, and the harbour seems to be frequented more by birds from the nearby gannet colony than anything else.

Our excursion of the Namaqualand ends in Cape Town. Depending on the weather and in agreement with your tour guide visits to the Stellenbosch Wine region, the Cape Point or the Botanic Garden in Kirstenbosch are possible.

Should you wish to commence your tour in Cape Town, the same itinerary as above will be applicable, however in reverse order and the journey will end in Windhoek/ Namibia.

## Itinerary

Depends on season.

