



# CHARLY'S DESERT TOURS

Operators of Namib Desert Tours and Overland Safaris since 1966



## SACRED FIRE

A glimpse of the Namibian map displays the north-western region of the country to be covered by an area called the Kaokoveld. For generations the Himba, a nomadic tribe of Namibia, have been roaming this area with their cattle and goats in search of grazing areas and water. This people that is closely locked with its animals and nature, has no knowledge of technical luxuries such as cellular phones, computers and satellite television and can easily carry its entire belongings on its backs or that of a mule. Up to 20 years ago the Kaokoveld was completely untouched by visitors and could only be reached by the most stubborn adventurers. Even today there are no decent roads and the area is only accessible along gravel roads. Visiting the area without a four-wheel-driven vehicle is quite impossible and the non-existent infrastructure necessitates diligent planning regarding fuel and food supplies. This is what makes a safari to this remote area such a spectacular event and a challenge for visitors and their vehicles. The Van Zyl's Pass is one of the most challenging passes in southern Africa. However, one view from its peak into the spectacular valley of the Marien River below makes you forget the loads of rocks that had to be rolled out of the way to reach the top. In the heat the flickering air creates a spectacular kaleidoscope of brown, yellow and red colour shades. An almost eerie tranquillity can be felt in this landscape without a trace of civilization. Ironically, this raises the chances of encountering one of the travelling Himba families. These live strictly according to own specific rules and regulations, and contacts need to be done with care so as not to hurt their pride. Such encounters are special and impressive and provide room for pensiveness.

Animals such as giraffes, ostrich and Oryx have adapted well to the meagre vegetation. Well hidden waterholes enable wild animals to survive in this area during times of drought.

Much of the Namibian landscape is covered by stones. However, under this seemingly monotonous surface of the Kaokoland lies hidden a multitude of minerals and semi-precious stones, and these gems, once found, become souvenirs of a special kind. This does not imply that you should focus on the ground only. The spectacular landscape, with the legendary clay castles situated in the Hoarusib River, is a virtual narration of the geological history of this region. Hoarusib and Hoanib are dry-course rivers, only flowing occasionally during the rainy season. During the dry seasons the subterranean water moves towards the ocean. This water is vital for the vegetation and consequently the animals. Watching the wild animals, such as giraffes, antelopes and desert elephants in their natural habitat is an unforgettable experience and tracks in the soft earth that are visible in the mornings have quite a tale to tell of the previous night's activities; giant lion tracks have caused many a shiver down a visitor's spine.

The original inhabitants of Namibia, the Bushmen, lived in absolute harmony with nature and a visit to the rock paintings and engravings of Twyfelfontein bears proof of their understanding of the nature's sensitive equilibrium. Some of these pieces of art are about 6 000 years old and are still intact. The end of this journey to the roots of civilisation often comes as a culture shock which we hope to convert into a nostalgic farewell. Let us spoil you one last time while you enjoy the glowing panorama in the breathtaking sunset.

## INTINERY

### SACRED FIRE

Daily itinerary for the 12 day safari

- Spectacular Camping safari in the northwest of Namibia
- Best of Kaokoland
- Encounter with the Himba tribe.
- Expedition in the realm of the desert elephant
- Rock engravings and paintings.

#### Day 01:

Windhoek or Swakopmund - Hobatere Lodge (530km and/or 490km)

Travel on tar and gravel roads from WHK/SWK via Kamanjab to the Hobatere Lodge.

Overnight at the Hobatere Lodge.

#### Day 02:

Hobatere - Etanga (300km)

Travel on dirt roads, via Opuwo to Etanga in the Kaokoland.

Overnight in tents in the vicinity of Etanga (game).

#### Day 03:

Etanga - Otjihende (60km)

Travel on scenic roads, via Otjitanda to Otjihende. Meeting with the Himba tribe.

Overnight in tents at Otjihende (game).

**Day 04:**

Otjihende - Otjinungwa (120km)

Spectacular journey over Van Zyl' s Pass in the Marien River and further on to Otjinungwa at the Kunene.  
Overnight in tents at Otjinungwa (game).

**Day 05:**

Excursions in the Kunene / Marien river area

Scenic trip with bathing in the Kunene river.

Overnight in tents at Otjinungwa (game).

**Day 06:**

Otjinungwa - Hartmanntal (200km)

Travel on dirt and gravel roads, via Roodrom in Hartmanntal.

Overnight in tents in Hartmanntal (game).

**Day 07:**

Hartmanntal - Khumib (180km)

Travel on dirt and gravel roads, via Orupembe up the dry Khumib river bed.

Overnight in tents in the Khumib (game).

**Day 08:**

Khumib - Purros (60km)

Scenic trip through harsh landscapes to Purros.

Overnight in tents in the Purros Communal Campsite.

**Day 09:**

Purros - Hoanib (150km)

Journey on seldom travelled dirt tracks via Amspoort to the dry Hoanib river bed.

Overnight in tents at Obias (game).

**Day 10:**

Elephant spotting

Track the desert elephant in the Hoanib area.

Overnight in tents at Obias (game).

**Day 11:**

Hoanib - Twyfelfontein (270km)

Travel on dirt roads, via Palmwag to Twyfelfontein.

Overnight at the Mowani Lodge.

**Day 12:**

Twyfelfontein - Windhoek/Swakopmund (500km/310km)

Travel back to Windhoek or Swakopmund.

End of the safari.