

MODULE 9: LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE SOSSUSVLEI AREA
Your Photographic Routine & Photo Gear Settings for best landscape shots

TAKE BETTER PHOTOS IN NAMIBIA

Claudia & Wynand du Plessis

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MODULE 9: LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE SOSSUSVLEI AREA

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Here's What You'll Learn In This Module:

- The photo hot spots of the Sossusvlei area

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- Which local conditions & regulations will influence your photography
- Your daily photographic routine and photo trips
- **Photo Gear Settings for best landscape shots**

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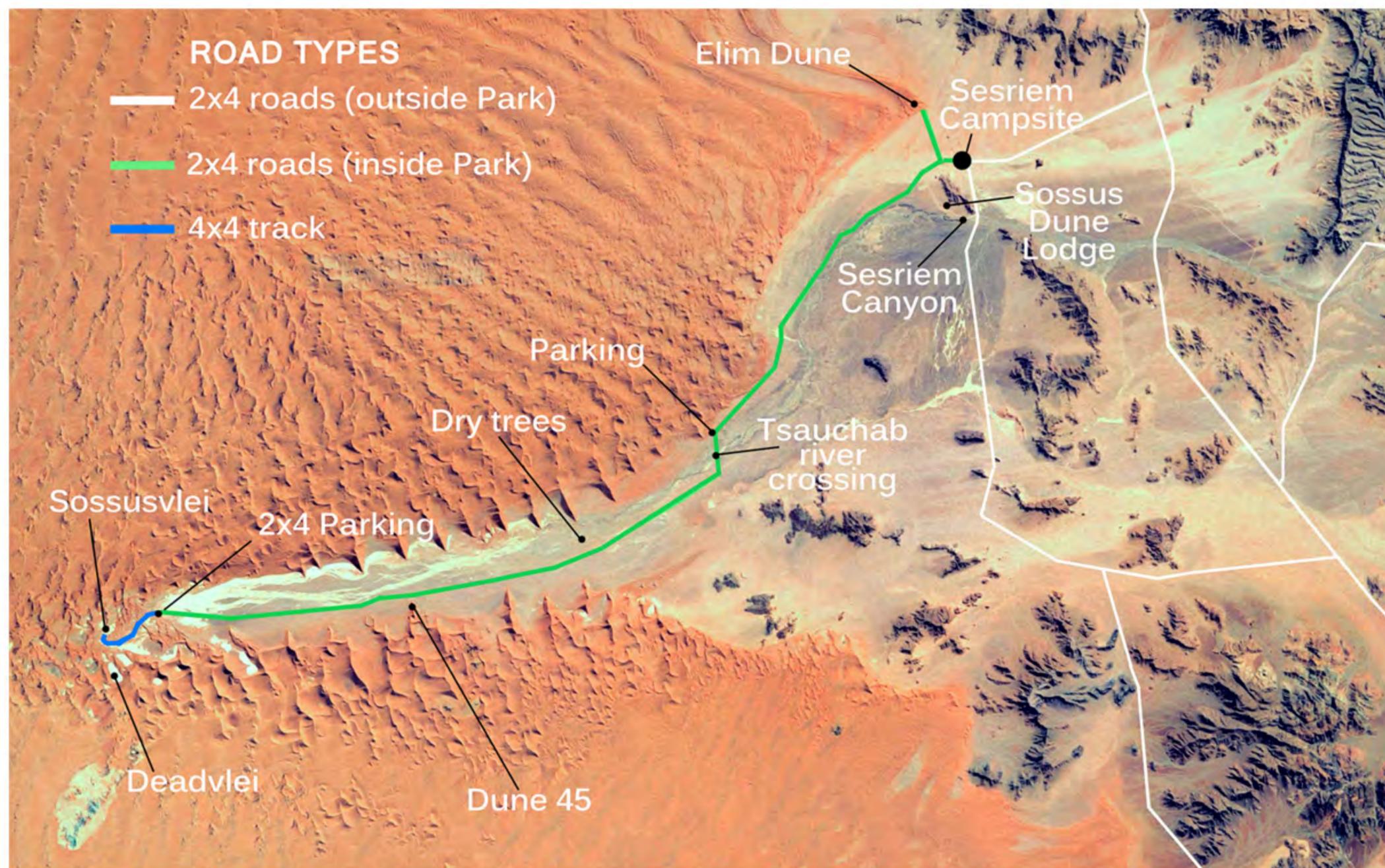
The dunes of the Namib Desert are among the most beautiful & photogenic landscapes in Namibia



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Map of the Sossusvlei area



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1. Photographic highlights



- Elim Dune:
>> just west of Sesriem campsite

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1. Photographic highlights



- Elim Dune:
 - >> just west of Sesriem campsite
 - >> beautiful scenes looking east toward the Namib Naukluft Mountains & west towards the dunes & gravel plains leading to Sossusvlei

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1. Photographic highlights



- Dunes near Tsauchab river crossing:
>> 23 km south-west of Sesriem along the tarr road

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- Dunes near Tsauchab river crossing:
 - >> 23 km south-west of Sesriem along the tarr road
 - >> park your car and climb the dunes north of the road

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1. Photographic highlights



- Dunes near Tsauchab river crossing:
 - >> 23 km south-west of Sesriem along the tarr road
 - >> park your car and climb the dunes north of the road
 - >> great vistas from the top and fantastic shapes for close-up images

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- Bizarre shapes of dry trees:
>> continuing 12km west on the road: bizarre and out-of-place shapes of dry trees

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1. Photographic highlights



- Bizarre shapes of dry trees:
 - >> continuing 12km west on the road: bizarre and out-of-place shapes of dry trees
 - >> make great images i.e. in front of the mighty dunes

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1. Photographic highlights



- Dune 45:

>> another 10km further west

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- Dune 45:
 - >> another 10km further west
 - >> popular dune climbing destination

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- Dune 45:
 - >> another 10km further west
 - >> popular dune climbing destination
 - >> beautiful dune, but it can be tricky to get it without a crowd of visitors

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- 2x4 parking spot east of Sossusvlei:
>> another 15km further west

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- 2x4 parking spot east of Sossusvlei:
 - >> another 15km further west
 - >> area between here and Sossusvlei itself is fantastic for photography in all directions

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- Sossusvlei:
>> the main destination another 5km further west;
4x4 only

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- Sossusvlei:
 - >> the main destination another 5km further west;
4x4 only
 - >> beautiful area in all directions

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- Deadvlei:

>> the second most important destination with dead Acacia trees on white clay pan between huge red sand dunes



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1. Photographic highlights



- Deadvlei:

>> the second most important destination with dead Acacia trees on white clay pan between huge red sand dunes

>> 4km west of the 2x4 parking spot (4x4 only), have to walk another 1km over flat sandy terrain

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- Deadvlei:

>> the second most important destination with dead Acacia trees on white clay pan between huge red sand dunes

>> 4km west of the 2x4 parking spot (4x4 only), have to walk another 1km over flat sandy terrain

>> is 2km south of Sossusvlei

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- Sesriem Canyon:
>> Sesriem Canyon is 3,5km south of Sesriem
campsite: reached with 2x4

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- **Sesriem Canyon:**
 - >> Sesriem Canyon is 3,5km south of Sesriem campsite: reached with 2x4
 - >> **inside the Namib Naukluft Park**

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2. Photographic opportunities & time of visit



- Photographic opportunities:
>> Namib Desert is one of the driest deserts on earth

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2. Photographic opportunities & time of visit



- Photographic opportunities:
 - >> Namib Desert is one of the driest deserts on earth
 - >> **amazing far-reaching vistas**

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- Photographic opportunities:
 - >> Namib Desert is one of the driest deserts on earth
 - >> amazing far-reaching vistas
 - >> colour of the red sand glows at sunrise & sunset

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- Photographic opportunities:
 - >> Namib Desert is one of the driest deserts on earth
 - >> amazing far-reaching vistas
 - >> colour of the red sand glows at sunrise & sunset
 - >> in low light the radiating dune sand casts colour into the dark dune shadows, changing the shadow colours to deep blues & purples

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 - >> amazingly shapely dunes: experiment with artistic shapes & forms

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 - >> abstract ripples & patterns in the sand

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 - >> abstract ripples & patterns in the sand
 - >> desert adapted animals: gemsbok, springbok & ostrich

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 - >> amazingly shapely dunes: experiment with artistic shapes & forms
 - >> abstract ripples & patterns in the sand
 - >> desert adapted animals: gemsbok, springbok & ostrich
 - >> landscape with mostly no vegetation and bare dune shapes: easy to see underlying artistic appeal

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- Normal desert features - May to December:
>> clear sky, sunny all day, hot during the day and warm at night or even cold during winter months (May to August)

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 - >> heavy fog possible in June

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- Normal desert features - May to December:
 - >> clear sky, sunny all day, hot during the day and warm at night or even cold during winter months (May to August)
 - >> heavy fog possible in June
 - >> no grass or flowers, just bare sand

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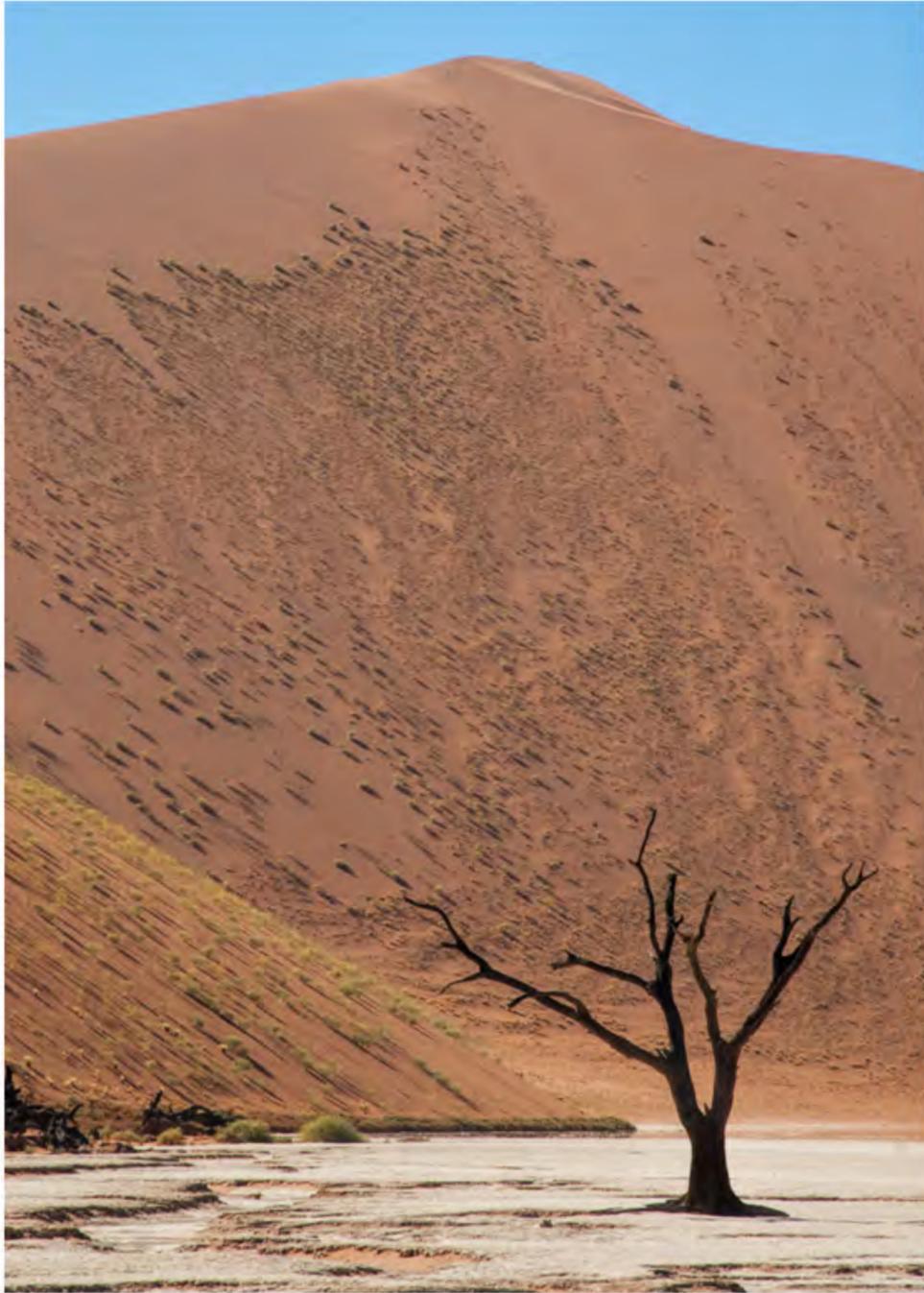


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 - >> traces of past flooding e.g. cracked up mud

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 - >> dry white clay pans surrounded by towering red dunes at Sossusvlei, Deadvlei & surroundings

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 - >> clear sky, sunny all day, hot during the day and warm at night or even cold during winter months (May to August)
 - >> heavy fog possible in June
 - >> no grass or flowers, just bare sand
 - >> traces of past flooding e.g. cracked up mud
 - >> dry white clay pans surrounded by towering red dunes at Sossusvlei, Deadvlei & surroundings
 - >> may be some water left at Sossusvlei if heavy flooding occurred during the rainy season

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- During the summer months - January to April:
>> may have isolated rain storms; very localized & unpredictable

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- During the summer months - January to April:
>> may have isolated rain storms; very localized & unpredictable
- During rains & flooding in the desert:
>> grass growth (plains & dune grass) with flower carpets

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 - >> a lake forms at Sossusvlei

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- During rains & flooding in the desert:
 - >> grass growth (plains & dune grass) with flower carpets
 - >> the Tsauchab river floods because of heavy rains on the mountains further east
 - >> a lake forms at Sossusvlei
 - >> **overcast sky & photogenic clouds & shadows**

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3. Local conditions & regulations that will influence your photography



- Permit requirements & your accommodation:
>> Sossusvlei area is part of the Namib Naukluft Park:
access with a permit only; at reception of Sesriem
campsite

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 - >> Park gates open at sunrise & close at sunset

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 - >> when you're staying at Sesriem campsite & at Sossus Dune Lodge, you can enter the Park 1 hour BEFORE sunrise and return 1 hour AFTER sunset

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 - >> when you're staying at Sesriem campsite & at Sossus Dune Lodge, you can enter the Park 1 hour BEFORE sunrise and return 1 hour AFTER sunset
 - >> everyone else staying outside of the Park in any other accommodation: can only enter the Park at the usual gate opening times

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 - >> Park gates open at sunrise & close at sunset
 - >> when you're staying at Sesriem campsite & at Sossus Dune Lodge, you can enter the Park 1 hour BEFORE sunrise and return 1 hour AFTER sunset
 - >> everyone else staying outside of the Park in any other accommodation: can only enter the Park at the usual gate opening times
 - >> **therefore, if you want to be at Sossusvlei at sunrise or stay there until sunset – you HAVE to stay inside**

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- Recommendations of where to stay:
- either stay only inside the park during your visit OR

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- Recommendations of where to stay:
- either stay only inside the park during your visit OR
- **stay at least two nights inside the Park & some more outside the Park, if you've got more time**

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- Recommendations of where to stay:
 - either stay only inside the park during your visit OR
 - stay at least two nights inside the Park & some more outside the Park, if you've got more time
- >> the days you stay inside the Park, you focus on photographing at Sossusvlei & Deadvlei at best light

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 - >> the days you stay inside the Park, you focus on photographing at Sossusvlei & Deadvlei at best light
 - >> the days you stay outside you use for photographing in other areas which are not as far from the Park gates but also extremely beautiful (Elim Dune up to Dune 45)

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- Recommendations of where to stay:
- either stay only inside the park during your visit OR
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 - >> the days you stay inside the Park, you focus on photographing at Sossusvlei & Deadvlei at best light
 - >> the days you stay outside you use for photographing in other areas which are not as far from the Park gates but also extremely beautiful (Elim Dune up to Dune 45)
- **TIP: wherever you stay, always get the Park permit the night before your morning drive; permit is valid for the whole day**

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- Your vehicle: 2x4 or 4x4
- >> the main road towards Sossusvlei from Sesriem is tarred and is accessible by 2x4

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3. Local conditions & regulations that will influence your photography



- Your vehicle: 2x4 or 4x4
 - >> the main road towards Sossusvlei from Sesriem is tarred and is accessible by 2x4
- Travelling with a 2x4 vehicle:
 - >> about 5km east of Sossusvlei: park your car at the so-called 2x4 parking spot

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- Your vehicle: 2x4 or 4x4
 - >> the main road towards Sossusvlei from Sesriem is tarred and is accessible by 2x4
- Travelling with a 2x4 vehicle:
 - >> about 5km east of Sossusvlei: park your car at the so-called 2x4 parking spot
 - >> either take the shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei

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 - >> or you just go on foot from here

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- Your vehicle: 2x4 or 4x4
 - >> the main road towards Sossusvlei from Sesriem is tarred and is accessible by 2x4
- Travelling with a 2x4 vehicle:
 - >> about 5km east of Sossusvlei: park your car at the so-called 2x4 parking spot
 - >> either take the shuttle to Sossusvlei / Deadvlei
 - >> or you just go on foot from here
 - >> if your destination is Dead Vlei, walk a further 20 to 30 min from the Deadvlei parking spot

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- Travelling with a 4x4 vehicle:
>> drive on to the parking spot right at Sossusvlei or the Dead Vlei parking spot (1km before that)

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- Travelling with a 4x4 vehicle:
 - >> drive on to the parking spot right at Sossusvlei or the Dead Vlei parking spot (1km before that)
 - >> when the sand is cold: mostly not too difficult

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 - >> when it's hot: some four-wheel driving experience in sand is recommended

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 - >> the Sossusvlei parking spot is right next to Sossusvlei

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 - >> when the sand is cold: mostly not too difficult
 - >> when it's hot: some four-wheel driving experience in sand is recommended
 - >> the Sossusvlei parking spot is right next to Sossusvlei
 - >> from the Deadvlei parking spot you'll still have to walk about 20 to 30 min to Dead Vlei further south

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- Where to get fuel:
>> Sossus Oasis fuel & service station just outside of Sesriem: fuel is reliably available

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- Where to get fuel:
 - >> Sossus Oasis fuel & service station just outside of Sesriem: fuel is reliably available
 - >> the nearest other destination to get fuel is at Solitaire, 82km away on the road towards Walvis Bay

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- Where to get fuel:
 - >> Sossus Oasis fuel & service station just outside of Sesriem: fuel is reliably available
 - >> the nearest other destination to get fuel is at Solitaire, 82km away on the road towards Walvis Bay
 - >> fill up the day before you plan an early morning drive

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Daily Photographic Routine:
>> similar to the routine we described for Etosha, except that it is focused on landscape photography

MODULE 9: LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE SOSSUSVLEI AREA

Your Photographic Routine & Photo Gear Settings for best landscape shots

4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- **Daily Photographic Routine:**

- >> similar to the routine we described for Etosha, except that it is focused on landscape photography

- The best times are determined by the light:

- >> **early morning photography: sunrise until mid morning: take breakfast with you**

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- **Daily Photographic Routine:**
 - >> similar to the routine we described for Etosha, except that it is focused on landscape photography
- The best times are determined by the light:
 - >> early morning photography: sunrise until mid morning: take breakfast with you
 - >> **break for lunch during midday hours**

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- **Daily Photographic Routine:**
 - >> similar to the routine we described for Etosha, except that it is focused on landscape photography
- The best times are determined by the light:
 - >> early morning photography: sunrise until mid morning: take breakfast with you
 - >> break for lunch during midday hours
 - >> **late afternoon photography: mid afternoon until 30 minutes after sunset (if you can stay out long)**

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- **Daily Photographic Routine:**
 - >> similar to the routine we described for Etosha, except that it is focused on landscape photography
 - The best times are determined by the light:
 - >> early morning photography: sunrise until mid morning: take breakfast with you
 - >> break for lunch during midday hours
 - >> late afternoon photography: mid afternoon until 30 minutes after sunset (if you can stay out long)
 - >> **break for dinner**

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- **Daily Photographic Routine:**
 - >> similar to the routine we described for Etosha, except that it is focused on landscape photography
- The best times are determined by the light:
 - >> early morning photography: sunrise until mid morning: take breakfast with you
 - >> break for lunch during midday hours
 - >> late afternoon photography: mid afternoon until 30 minutes after sunset (if you can stay out long)
 - >> break for dinner
 - >> **image download & review: before bedtime**

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- BEFORE each drive:
>> plan your route taking the travel times into consideration

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- **BEFORE** each drive:
 - >> plan your route taking the travel times into consideration
 - >> see the PDF with individual travel times from Sesriem to the photo hot spots in this area

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- **BEFORE** each drive:
 - >> plan your route taking the travel times into consideration
 - >> see the PDF with individual travel times from Sesriem to the photo hot spots in this area
 - >> **do NOT MISS the best light for photography**

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Sossusvlei and Deadvlei:

>> dedicate ONE drive to either one of them at a time

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Sossusvlei and Deadvlei:
 - >> dedicate ONE drive to either one of them at a time
 - >> ideally: photograph each of them in morning & evening light

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Sossusvlei and Deadvlei:
 - >> dedicate ONE drive to either one of them at a time
 - >> ideally: photograph each of them in morning & evening light
 - >> they look different in morning & afternoon as light comes from opposite directions

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Sossusvlei and Deadvlei:
 - >> dedicate ONE drive to either one of them at a time
 - >> ideally: photograph each of them in morning & evening light
 - >> they look different in morning & afternoon as light comes from opposite directions
- Morning drive: be there at sunrise: stay inside Park

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Sossusvlei and Deadvlei:
 - >> dedicate ONE drive to either one of them at a time
 - >> ideally: photograph each of them in morning & evening light
 - >> they look different in morning & afternoon as light comes from opposite directions
- Morning drive: be there at sunrise: stay inside Park
- Evening drive: be there +/- 2 hours before sunset

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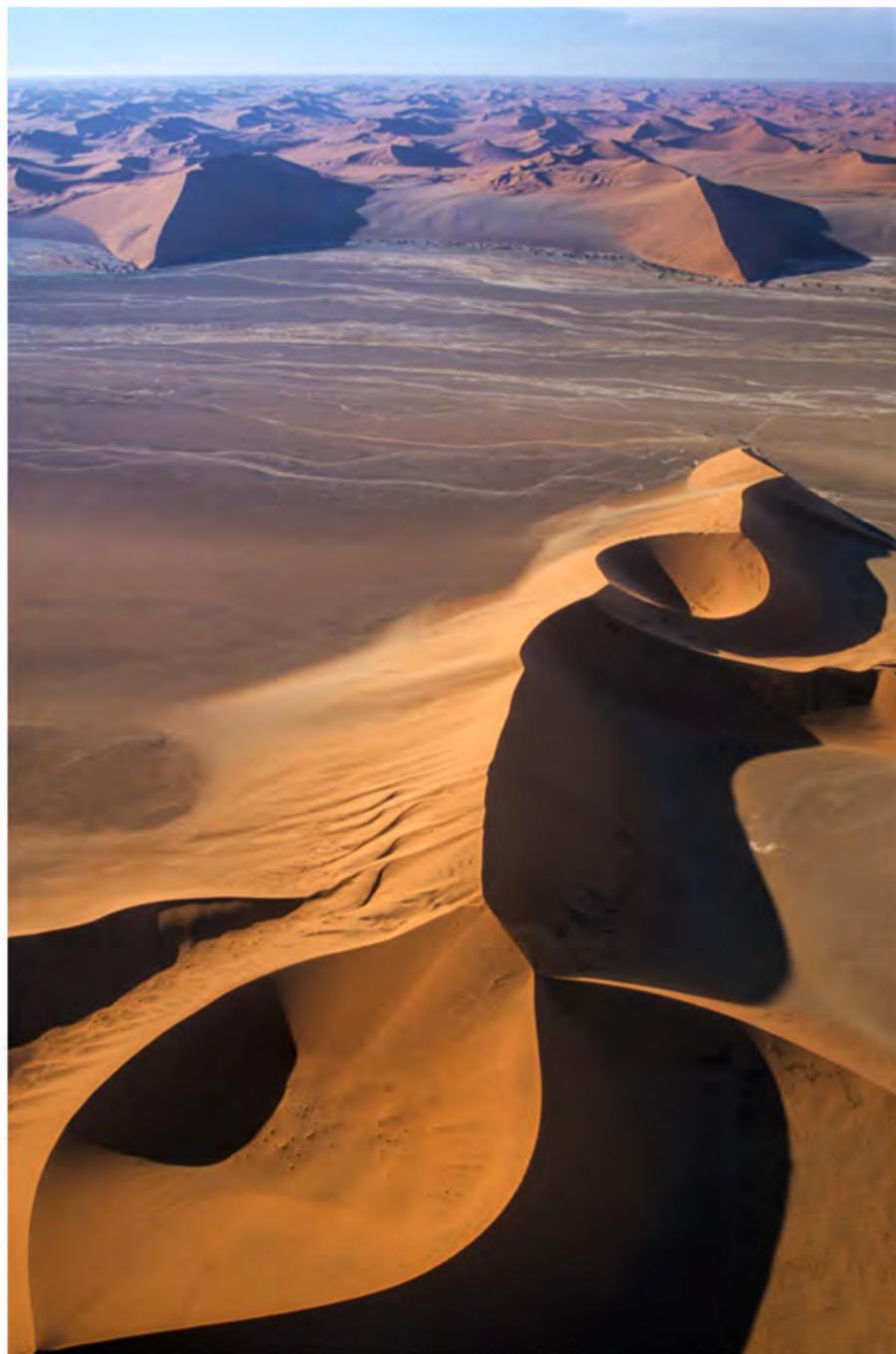


- Your Photographic Trips - destination Sossusvlei and Deadvlei:
 - >> dedicate ONE drive to either one of them at a time
 - >> ideally: photograph each of them in morning & evening light
 - >> they look different in morning & afternoon as light comes from opposite directions
- Morning drive: be there at sunrise: stay inside Park
- Evening drive: be there +/- 2 hours before sunset
- Stay there the entire day: to avoid the drive back & forth; stay in shade of big Acacia trees at Sossusvlei: take enough food & water

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- Your Photographic Trips - destination Dune 45:
>> photogenic dune: tricky to be there alone

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Dune 45:
 - >> photogenic dune: tricky to be there alone
 - >> huge single dune: may take 30 minutes or more to get to the top: very strenuous exercise!

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- Your Photographic Trips - destination Dune 45:
 - >> photogenic dune: tricky to be there alone
 - >> huge single dune: may take 30 minutes or more to get to the top: very strenuous exercise!
 - >> best photos from higher up and from the top; the surroundings offer many photo possibilities, also using longer lens

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- Your Photographic Trips - destination Dune 45:
 - >> photogenic dune: tricky to be there alone
 - >> huge single dune: may take 30 minutes or more to get to the top: very strenuous exercise!
 - >> best photos from higher up and from the top; the surroundings offer many photo possibilities, also using longer lens
 - >> for pristine images without people & trampled dune crests, try to be the first in the morning - leave before sunrise

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- Your Photographic Trips - destination Dune 45:
 - >> photogenic dune: tricky to be there alone
 - >> huge single dune: may take 30 minutes or more to get to the top: very strenuous exercise!
 - >> best photos from higher up and from the top; the surroundings offer many photo possibilities, also using longer lens
 - >> for pristine images without people & trampled dune crests, try to be the first in the morning - leave before sunrise
 - >> in the afternoon can be tricky to have dune without people or a trampled dune crest: sand carried by strong winds may have covered the tracks

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- Your Photographic Trips - area between 2x4 parking and Sossusvlei:

>> very beautiful area: many photo opportunities

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- Your Photographic Trips - area between 2x4 parking and Sossusvlei:
 - >> very beautiful area: many photo opportunities
 - >> **dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon**

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - area between 2x4 parking and Sossusvlei:
 - >> very beautiful area: many photo opportunities
 - >> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon
 - >> morning drive: be there at sunrise: leave camp one hour before sunrise

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- Your Photographic Trips - area between 2x4 parking and Sossusvlei:
 - >> very beautiful area: many photo opportunities
 - >> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon
 - >> morning drive: be there at sunrise: leave camp one hour before sunrise
 - >> **afternoon drive: be there before the best light**

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- Your Photographic Trips - area between 2x4 parking and Sossusvlei:
 - >> very beautiful area: many photo opportunities
 - >> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon
 - >> morning drive: be there at sunrise: leave camp one hour before sunrise
 - >> afternoon drive: be there before the best light
 - >> even if there are other visitors around, the area is spacious enough to find and photograph scenes without people in it

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- Your Photographic Trips - drive & short photo walks between Sesriem & Dune 45:
>> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon

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- Your Photographic Trips - drive & short photo walks between Sesriem & Dune 45:
 - >> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon
 - >> **best time is to leave Sesriem at sunrise**

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- Your Photographic Trips - drive & short photo walks between Sesriem & Dune 45:
 - >> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon
 - >> best time is to leave Sesriem at sunrise
 - >> **drive, stop & walk wherever you're inspired**

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- Your Photographic Trips - drive & short photo walks between Sesriem & Dune 45:
 - >> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon
 - >> best time is to leave Sesriem at sunrise
 - >> drive, stop & walk wherever you're inspired
 - >> recommended photo stops: Tsauchab river crossing and at the bizarre trees area

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- Your Photographic Trips - drive & short photo walks between Sesriem & Dune 45:
 - >> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon
 - >> best time is to leave Sesriem at sunrise
 - >> drive, stop & walk wherever you're inspired
 - >> **recommended photo stops: Tsauchab river crossing and at the bizarre trees area**

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- Your Photographic Trips - drive & short photo walks between Sesriem & Dune 45:
 - >> dedicate at least ONE visit: ideally one morning & one afternoon
 - >> best time is to leave Sesriem at sunrise
 - >> drive, stop & walk wherever you're inspired
 - >> recommended photo stops: Tsauchab river crossing and at the bizarre trees area
 - >> gemsbok, springbok & ostrich are often seen here: great opportunities for telephoto lens photography; walk towards animals even if they are far away

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- Your Photographic Trips - destination Elim Dune:
>> dedicate ONE visit, ideally one morning & one afternoon drive

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- Your Photographic Trips - destination Elim Dune:
 - >> dedicate ONE visit, ideally one morning & one afternoon drive
 - >> climb up Elim dune as far as you'd like (takes at least 30 min to get a decent height)

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Elim Dune:
 - >> dedicate ONE visit, ideally one morning & one afternoon drive
 - >> climb up Elim dune as far as you'd like (takes at least 30 min to get a decent height)
 - >> great view towards the Naukluft mountains in the east, the dune belt towards the south-west, and the plains and distant mountains to the south

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Elim Dune:
 - >> dedicate ONE visit, ideally one morning & one afternoon drive
 - >> climb up Elim dune as far as you'd like (takes at least 30 min to get a decent height)
 - >> great view towards the Naukluft mountains in the east, the dune belt towards the south-west, and the plains and distant mountains to the south
 - >> OR climb up the first dune level and walk along the edge to get a better perspective on the receding dunes towards the west

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- Your Photographic Trips - destination Elim Dune:
>> ideal destination when staying outside Park to be able to get great dune shots just after sunrise and until shortly before sunset

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4. Your Daily Photographic Routine & Photo Trips



- Your Photographic Trips - destination Elim Dune:
 - >> ideal destination when staying outside Park to be able to get great dune shots just after sunrise and until shortly before sunset
 - >> when you stay inside the Park: have 1 hour extra; watch the sunrise from up there; can stay after sunset for the chance of some magical after-glow light AND for the barking gecko concert on the grass plains below

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- General TIPS for your photo drives:
>> plan your route realistically – considering the maximum driving speed

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- General TIPS for your photo drives:
 - >> plan your route realistically – considering the maximum driving speed
 - >> when you see desert animals, try to walk nearer slowly & photograph them in their environment

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- General TIPS for your photo drives:
 - >> plan your route realistically – considering the maximum driving speed
 - >> when you see desert animals, try to walk nearer slowly & photograph them in their environment
 - >> don't be afraid to walk far from your car; great experience and the perspective changes constantly

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- **General TIPS for your photo drives:**
 - >> plan your route realistically – considering the maximum driving speed
 - >> when you see desert animals, try to walk nearer slowly & photograph them in their environment
 - >> don't be afraid to walk far from your car; great experience and the perspective changes constantly
 - >> sand is cool in morning, but very hot during the day & you will get burnt in open shoes: always take closed shoes with you

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- **General TIPS for your photo drives:**
 - >> plan your route realistically – considering the maximum driving speed
 - >> when you see desert animals, try to walk nearer slowly & photograph them in their environment
 - >> don't be afraid to walk far from your car; great experience and the perspective changes constantly
 - >> sand is cool in morning, but very hot during the day & you will get burnt in open shoes: always take closed shoes with you
 - >> **bring enough water & snacks so you can stay the whole day**

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- Photographing landscapes:
>> landscapes are very patient & do not run away...

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- **Photographing landscapes:**
 - >> landscapes are very patient & do not run away...
 - >> **however, during atmospheric conditions the light may change continuously & quickly**

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- **Photographing landscapes:**

- >> landscapes are very patient & do not run away...
- >> however, during atmospheric conditions the light may change continuously & quickly
- >> **pre-settings are not critical because you usually have enough time**

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- **Photographing landscapes:**

- >> landscapes are very patient & do not run away...

- >> however, during atmospheric conditions the light may change continuously & quickly

- >> pre-settings are not critical because you usually have enough time

- >> **still handy & practical to have a routine pre-setting**

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- Photographing landscapes:
>> with grand views, the eye wants to explore the entire image

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- Photographing landscapes:
 - >> with grand views, the eye wants to explore the entire image
 - >> if your image isn't sharp from the front to the back, people's eyes will be prevented from seeing every detail in the scene, which can feel frustrating & distracting

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- Photographing landscapes:
 - >> with grand views, the eye wants to explore the entire image
 - >> if your image isn't sharp from the front to the back, people's eyes will be prevented from seeing every detail in the scene, which can feel frustrating & distracting
 - >> therefore, you want to maximize your depth of field and create an image that's sharp from the front to the back by using a small apertures (large f-stop)

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- Camera settings:
 - >> preset camera mode to Aperture Priority
(explained in Module 6): select a small aperture
(large f-stop) of f/16 or larger (for greater image
detail)

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- Camera settings:
 - >> preset camera mode to Aperture Priority (explained in Module 6): select a small aperture (large f-stop) of f/16 or larger (for greater image detail)
 - >> try to use ISO 100 for least noise

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- Camera settings:
 - >> preset camera mode to Aperture Priority (explained in Module 6): select a small aperture (large f-stop) of f/16 or larger (for greater image detail)
 - >> try to use ISO 100 for least noise
 - >> **image stabilization ON: if you plan to handhold or**

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- Camera settings:
 - >> preset camera mode to Aperture Priority (explained in Module 6): select a small aperture (large f-stop) of f/16 or larger (for greater image detail)
 - >> try to use ISO 100 for least noise
 - >> image stabilization ON: if you plan to handhold or
 - >> **image stabilization OFF: if you plan to use a support**

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- Camera settings:
 - >> preset camera mode to Aperture Priority (explained in Module 6): select a small aperture (large f-stop) of f/16 or larger (for greater image detail)
 - >> try to use ISO 100 for least noise
 - >> image stabilization ON: if you plan to handhold or
 - >> image stabilization OFF: if you plan to use a support
 - >> for sharpest images it is recommendable to use a tripod when shutter speed is slower than 1/30 sec

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- Your lenses for landscape photography:
>> wide angle: for wide landscape shots

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- Your lenses for landscape photography:
 - >> wide angle: for wide landscape shots
 - >> medium telephoto lens: for tighter landscape shots or close up abstracts of dune ripples and tracks in the sand

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- Your lenses for landscape photography:
 - >> wide angle: for wide landscape shots
 - >> medium telephoto lens: for tighter landscape shots or close up abstracts of dune ripples and tracks in the sand
 - >> long telephoto lens: use for close-up abstract images of dunes and to “compress” the landscape: several far away dunes behind each other would appear closer to each other

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- Your lenses for landscape photography:
 - >> wide angle: for wide landscape shots
 - >> medium telephoto lens: for tighter landscape shots or close up abstracts of dune ripples and tracks in the sand
 - >> long telephoto lens: use for close-up abstract images of dunes and to “compress” the landscape: several far away dunes behind each other would appear closer to each other
 - >> macro: for insects & spiders, and tracks in the sand

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- Animal photography in the desert:
>> the same basic principles in terms of your camera settings & lenses to use apply as have been explained in detail in the Etosha chapter (Module 6)

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- Animal photography in the desert:
 - >> the same basic principles in terms of your camera settings & lenses to use apply as have been explained in detail in the Etosha chapter (Module 6)
 - >> in contrast to Etosha: regularly choose a wider shot where an animal is shown as part of the landscape

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- Avoid Image Blur with small apertures in low light:
>> using smaller apertures (larger f-stops): slow to extremely slow shutter speeds at very low light

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- Avoid Image Blur with small apertures in low light:
 - >> using smaller apertures (larger f-stops): slow to extremely slow shutter speeds at very low light
 - >> impossible to take a steady handheld shot at very slow shutter speeds (1 sec or longer): have to use a camera support (tripod or your bean-bag)

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- **Avoid Image Blur with small apertures in low light:**
 - >> using smaller apertures (larger f-stops): slow to extremely slow shutter speeds at very low light
 - >> impossible to take a steady handheld shot at very slow shutter speeds (1 sec or longer): have to use a camera support (tripod or your bean-bag)
 - >> **safely handhold your camera & lens: using shutter speeds at least equal to the focal length of your lens; for example 28 mm wide-angle with a 1/30 sec**

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- **Avoid Image Blur with small apertures in low light:**
 - >> using smaller apertures (larger f-stops): slow to extremely slow shutter speeds at very low light
 - >> impossible to take a steady handheld shot at very slow shutter speeds (1 sec or longer): have to use a camera support (tripod or your bean-bag)
 - >> safely handhold your camera & lens: using shutter speeds at least equal to the focal length of your lens; for example 28 mm wide-angle with a 1/30 sec
 - >> **with image stabilization ON you can go even lower to maybe 1/8 sec if there is little or no wind**

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- **Avoid Image Blur with small apertures in low light:**
 - >> using smaller apertures (larger f-stops): slow to extremely slow shutter speeds at very low light
 - >> impossible to take a steady handheld shot at very slow shutter speeds (1 sec or longer): have to use a camera support (tripod or your bean-bag)
 - >> safely handhold your camera & lens: using shutter speeds at least equal to the focal length of your lens; for example 28 mm wide-angle with a 1/30 sec
 - >> with image stabilization ON you can go even lower to maybe 1/8 sec if there is little or no wind
 - >> **with longer lenses, shutter speeds you'll get with the small apertures are not safe for hand-holding**

MODULE 9: LANDSCAPE PHOTOGRAPHY IN THE SOSSUSVLEI AREA

Your Photographic Routine & Photo Gear Settings for best landscape shots

5. Photo Gear Settings for best landscape images



- Avoid Image Blur with small apertures in low light:
>> strong wind occurs in deserts: will cause camera shake when using a long lense even if camera is on a tripod; must use faster shutter speed to avoid unsharp images

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- When using a tripod:
- To ensure for sharp images when using tripod:
>> use mirror lock-up mode

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- When using a tripod:
- To ensure for sharp images when using tripod:
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 - >> use a remote-control

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- To ensure for sharp images when using tripod:
 - >> use mirror lock-up mode
 - >> use a remote-control
 - >> use the self-timer

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- Dealing with high contrast in the desert:
>> when using a wide angle lens: exposure become tricky; foreground may be much darker (or brighter) than the horizon and sky

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 - >> blend multiple exposures (using exposure bracketing): put your camera on a tripod

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 - >> combine these images in-camera (HDR settings) or using a computer with appropriate software

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 - >> use graduated neutral density filter in front of your lens

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 - >> blend multiple exposures (using exposure bracketing): put your camera on a tripod
 - >> combine these images in-camera (HDR settings) or using a computer with appropriate software
 - >> use graduated neutral density filter in front of your lens
 - >> use a fill-in flash to illuminate the foreground and still get the rich sunset colors in the rest of the image

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- Dealing with high contrast in the desert:
>> with your post-processing recover detail in under- or over-exposed parts of the image

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- Dealing with high contrast in the desert:
 - >> with your post-processing recover detail in under or over-exposed parts of the image
 - >> full-frame and large-format cameras provide sensors with higher dynamic range than cropped frame cameras: and therefore have more possibilities for recovering detail

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Take action now:

- Download the detail area map & familiarize yourself with it

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Take action now:

- Download the detail area map & familiarize yourself with it
- Print out the individual travel times from Sesriem to the photo hot spots in the area