



Feel Namibia

A Travel Guide for the Soul

50 WAYS to Feel & Experience

the Magic of Namibia with All Your Senses



Claudia & Wynand du Plessis ©



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the Magic of Namibia with All Your Senses

We admit it. We ARE in love with Namibia. And we want to spread the love.

This book is dedicated to helping YOU experience the magic of Namibia's wilderness to the fullest. It's filled with our best tips on how to FEEL Namibia with all YOUR senses, with YOUR heart and with YOUR soul. It's our deepest wish that you will fall in love with Namibia too, and ultimately with wild nature.

Have a magical time in Namibia!

Claudia & Wynand du Plessis



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Part ONE

'Feel Namibia' on YOUR journey

1. *Enjoy* Namibia's 'summer feeling'
2. *Marvel* at Namibia's wide open spaces
3. *Embrace* the 'Lone Rider' experience
4. *Rejoice* at the unspoiled wilderness



1. *Enjoy* Namibia's 'summer feeling'



1. *Enjoy* Namibia's 'summer feeling'

Who doesn't like summer?

Whatever you associate with a great 'summer feeling' you'll (most likely) find it in Namibia:

Cloudless sky

Ever present sun

Dry & warm (hot) days

Summer dress or shorts with

T-Shirts and flip-flops

Lots of open air activities

Grilling under cloudless skies

Camp fire ... and much more.



Absorb this feeling of 'eternal summer' & enjoy !



2. *Marvel* at Namibia's wide open spaces



2. *Marvel* at Namibia's wide open spaces

Straight country roads.

Endless horizons.

The views that open up on your journey through Namibia are often breathtaking, to say the least.

Let your gaze wander into the distance while you're on the road and breathe in Namibia's beauty and vastness.

Travelling like this for hours is like meditation. It's healing, relaxing, rejuvenating.

Welcome it. It does your soul good.



3. *Embrace* the 'Lone Rider' experience



3. *Embrace* the 'Lone Rider' experience

For miles and miles you drive ...

without another human soul in sight.

Although you'll eventually meet other people along the common routes through Namibia, it is quite possible to travel for hours without passing another car.



Enjoy this 'Lone Rider' experience, actually EMBRACE it.

There are few countries on Earth where you can have this grand scenery all to yourself for more than a few minutes.



4. *Rejoice* at the unspoiled wilderness



4. *Rejoice* at the unspoiled wilderness



Huge country.

Few people.

Forward thinking nature conservationists.

This is the magic formula for Namibia being the country with the largest area of protected land in the entire world.

So look around on your travels across the country.

Most of what you see is unspoiled and open wilderness that you are privileged to experience on your visit.

This is priceless and wonderful!



Part TWO

'Feel Namibia' wherever YOU stay

5. *Delight* in your open-air breakfast
6. *Cool off* in the afternoon
7. *Embrace* the Namibian tradition of 'tea time'
8. *Savour* your 'sundowner drink' after a hot, dusty day
9. *Feel* a Namibian steak melt in your mouth - for 'carnivores' only ;-)
10. *Relish* dinner under the open Namibian sky
11. *Watch* the flames of your camp fire play games
12. *Be fascinated* by Namibia's awe-inspiring night sky
13. *Listen* to the night sounds



5. *Delight* in your open-air breakfast



5. *Delight* in your open-air breakfast

Grab your first coffee (or tea) in the morning and walk outside.

Nothing compares to the luxury of taking your first sip of coffee in the open air, under the grand Namibian sky, in the wild.

What a great way to start your day with the promise of new adventures!



6. *Cool off* in the afternoon



6. *Cool off* in the afternoon

The midday heat in Namibia can be extreme.

That's why now is the time of day when wildlife rests to conserve energy and avoid dehydration.

Do the same: take a nap or retreat for a read.

When you're rested, refresh yourself in your camps' or lodge's swimming pool.

It'll be breathtaking (literally).

But don't think about it, **JUST DO IT.**

You'll feel awesome afterwards.



7. *Embrace* the Namibian tradition of 'tea time'



7. *Embrace* the Namibian tradition of 'tea time'

It's a MUST in Namibia. Almost 'law'.

Twice a day, precisely at 10h10 and at 15h10 (almost) everybody in the entire country drops whatever he/she is doing and has a cup of coffee or tea.

With cookies. Or cake. Doesn't matter.

Follow along and have a 'cuppa'.

Now you're (almost) a Namibian ;-)



PS: If you want to treat yourself to delicious cake and can incorporate it in your itinerary, DO THIS:

Stop On Route for the 'world-famous' apple-crumble in Solitaire (Solitaire Bakery) or a piece of delicious Apfelstrudel or Black-forest cake in Outjo (Outjo bakery) or Swakopmund (various bakeries or cafes). You may well know these cakes from home, but it's a whole new experience to taste them freshly 'made in Namibia'.



8. *Savour* your 'sundowner drink' after a hot, dusty day



8. *Savour* your 'sundowner drink' after a hot, dusty day



Don't ask questions, just
DO THIS after your return to
camp from a hot, dusty drive:

Open an ice-cold drink – a beer,
savanna cider or rock shandy –

and TAKE YOUR FIRST SIP.

Aaaaaahhhhhhhhhhhhhhhhh.

The word 'refreshing' doesn't even touch on the sensation you'll have.



9. *Feel* a Namibian steak melt in your mouth

- for 'carnivores' only ;-)



9. *Feel* a Namibian steak melt in your mouth

- for 'carnivores' only ;-)

It's undisputed:

Some of the world's best steak – be it beef or game – is served in Namibia.

And it's likely a combination of two lucky factors:

happy cows / game and the art of grilling.

Namibia's cattle and of course the game are free-roaming the African savanna their entire life. This totally reflects in their excellent meat. Add a centuries old tradition of grilling over wood fires and you'll have it: the **BEST STEAKS** ever.



10. *Relish* dinner under the open Namibian sky



10. *Relish* dinner under the open Namibian sky



It's part of the Namibia Experience to spend much of your day outside in the wild.

One of the best ways to end an eventful day in the bush is with a relaxed dinner under the open Namibian sky.

Whether it's a self-cooked meal at your campsite or a stylish dinner on the terrace of one of Namibia's tastefully decorated lodges, it is always a wonderful and memorable experience.

Enjoy it!



11. *Watch* the flames of your camp fire play games



11. *Watch* the flames of your camp fire play games

It's the perfect way to wind down after your 'busy day' in the Namibian bush.

Sit close to a camp fire and watch the flames play games.

Hear the burning wood crackle. Listen to the sound of the fire licking up into the air. Let your thoughts wander...

Soak in this atmosphere of freedom, of wildness, of being one with nature.

Feels good, doesn't it?



12. *Be fascinated* by Namibia's awe-inspiring night sky



12. *Be fascinated* by Namibia's awe-inspiring night sky



Namibia's night sky is world-famous, for its clarity and therefore amazing views into the universe.

Step away from your camp fire or lodge lights and look up to the grand scenery above you.

Once you've got used to the dark, you won't believe your eyes:

There are myriads and myriads of stars and galaxies in unparalleled brightness.

Isn't it unbelievably beautiful and awe-inspiring?



13. *Listen* to the night sounds



13. *Listen* to the night sounds

A few hours after dark, when camp sites and lodges eventually quieten down, the night sounds of the wilderness become more pronounced.

Take some time to listen to the night creatures, before you snuggle up in your cozy sleeping bag or bed.

You might hear the call of an eagle owl or the high-pitch screams of bats on their hunting flights. It might be the howling of black-backed jackals communicating with each other or the distant roaring of a lion on its nightly hunt.

In any case it's the wilderness calling. Listen up!

This is the best concert playing for you when you drift off into dreamland.



Part THREE

'*Feel Namibia*' in the Namib Desert

14. *Smell* 5 a.m. in the desert
15. *Experience* how the day awakens
16. *Be entranced* by the beauty of the Sossusvlei dunes
17. *Admire* the bizarre Acacia trees at Dead Vlei
18. *Feel* the warm dune sand between your toes
19. *See* and grasp the meaning of 'endlessness' from the top of a dune
20. *Experience* Namibia's vastness from a bird's eye view
21. *Discover* 'life in the desert'
22. *Hug* a Camelthorn tree
23. *Watch* the dunes change colour at sunset
24. *Listen* to a 'gecko concert' as night falls
25. *See* the desert in bloom
26. *Marvel* at Sossusvlei filled with water



14. *Smell* 5 a.m. in the desert



14. *Smell* 5 a.m. in the desert

When you get up in the early hours of the morning for your drive to Sossusvlei, take a deep breath.

Can you smell it?

This is 5 a.m. in the desert ;-),

and the start of a great adventure you'll never forget.



15. *Experience* how the day awakens



15. *Experience* how the day awakens

You leave camp in the dark. The hum of the engine on your drive to Sossusvlei or Dead Vlei is the only sound.

It's calming, almost lulling you back to sleep. DON'T. FALL. ASLEEP.

Instead, watch out for the awakening of the day.

At first you notice the 'skyline' of the dune landscape around you. Then you make out more and more details, such as the shapes and textures of the grand dunes.



Within the next hour it's daylight and you are able to fully enjoy the magnificent dune scenery in the first sunlight.



16. *Be entralled* by the beauty of the Sossusvlei dunes



16. *Be entralled* by the beauty of the Sossusvlei dunes

It's just magnificent.

Sossusvlei, the world-famous desert pan, is indescribably picturesque and the surrounding dunes are nothing short of breathtaking. At each turn wherever you walk you'll find new great scenery and stunning views.



It's kind of overwhelming.
We get it ! Slow down. Soak it in.

And... take photographs,
so you'll be able to relive this
sensation of enthusiasm again
at home, after your return.

Now, in the early morning – as well as before sunset – it's the best time for unforgettable images. The light is most flattering for capturing the warm rich colours, soft shapes and contrasting light and shade of the marvellous dunes.



17. *Admire* the bizarre Acacia trees at Dead Vlei



17. *Admire* the bizarre Acacia trees at Dead Vlei

Not far from the world-famous Sossusvlei there is another pan worth seeing, called Dead Vlei.

Here you'll find dead Acacia trees, which are the last remains of a once verdant oasis.

They seem bizarre. Appear to have been planted there.

Yet they are hauntingly beautiful at the same time.

Enjoy this special scenery.



18. *Feel* the warm dune sand between your toes



18. *Feel* the warm dune sand between your toes

Now it's time to climb a dune.

When you're on top, take your shoes off.

Dig your feet into the warm sand.

Wiggle your toes.

Nothing compares to the blissful feeling of warm, soft dune sand underneath and around your feet.

Enjoy the relaxation that comes from this 'warm dune sand treatment' of your feet.



19. *See* and grasp the meaning of 'endlessness'
from the top of a dune



19. *See* and grasp the meaning of 'endlessness' from the top of a dune

It's breathtaking.

When you sit on top of one of the highest dunes of the Namib Desert the view is awe-inspiring, almost beyond words.

To the west, south and north the dune sea stretches as far as the eye can see. Just dune sand, on and on and on...

Take time to let your gaze wander.

This may be the first time you ever SEE 'endlessness' in all directions.



20. *Experience* Namibia's vastness from a bird's eye view



20. *Experience* Namibia's vastness from a bird's eye view

Do you like adventure and want to experience an entirely different view of the magnificent Namib Desert?



If yes, then TAKE TO THE AIR.

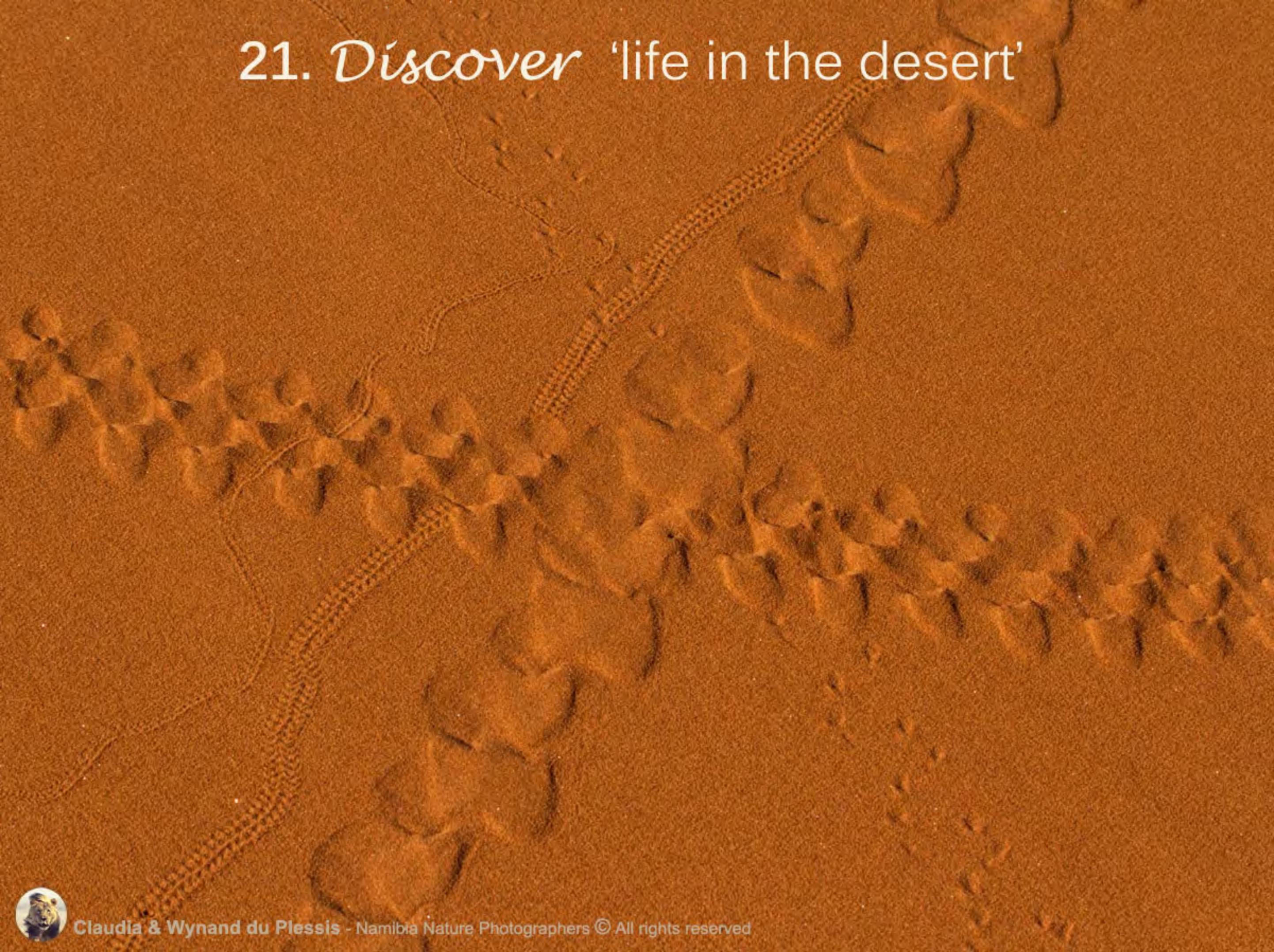
Book a scenic flight by plane, helicopter or even a hot-air balloon. Namibia's dunes are grand when experienced by road and on foot, but they are even more breathtakingly beautiful when seen from the air.

And we promise: drifting silently over the magnificent sand dunes in a hot air balloon at sunrise or cruising over the dune sea in a plane is something you'll never forget.

The change in perspective can be life changing....
Go & buy your ticket today!



21. *Discover* 'life in the desert'



21. *Discover* 'life in the desert'

The desert can be relentless.

Up to 50 degrees C° at times, no water, dry desert winds, sparse food.

Sounds pretty hostile to life, doesn't it?

But look closely. There are plenty of signs of animal life all around you. Tiny tracks on the dune sand tell of small lizards and tiny beetles that have been busy foraging in the cool morning hours.

Hoof tracks in the dune valleys give away the presence of springbok or gemsbok, which are remarkably well adapted to the harsh desert conditions.

Open your eyes and let yourself be surprised by the bountiful 'life in the desert'.



22. Hug a Camelthorn Tree



22. Hug a Camelthorn Tree

After you descend from your dune climb you'll most likely rest and have a snack in the shade of a tree. These are Camelthorn trees, most remarkable trees.



Despite extremely hard living conditions they've managed to grow into large desert trees, some of them being hundred years or even older.

In this harsh environment Camelthorn trees are crucial to the survival of many desert dwellers, big and small, providing them with the precious gifts of shade and food.

Today one is sheltering YOU from the relentless desert heat.

Why don't you give it a hug;-) ?



23. *Watch* the dunes change colour at sunset



23. *Watch* the dunes change colour at sunset

After your midday break head out to Elim dune, or any other dune, about an hour before sunset.

Climb the dune and just sit there. Take in the wonderful shades of earth colours around you, aren't they just amazing?



Now pay attention to what's happening in the next hour or so. As the sun moves closer to the horizon, the tones change constantly, but ever so subtly.

By the time the sun has set, they will have gone through a huge palette of nuances, ranging from bright orange to ochre and maybe even a soft pink colour.

So beautiful!



24. *Listen* to a 'gecko concert' as night falls



24. *Listen* to a 'gecko concert' as night falls

And now to a special treat you will not have experienced before. It only requires a bit of patience, silence and a sandy soil, that's all.

Just sit quietly at sunset on a dune or away from human activity on the open sandy plains.



You'll soon witness the awakening of a very special concert that only happens at this time of day in the desert.

'Chuk-chuk-chuk-chuk-chuk',

in descending tone ... here it starts,

the symphony of the 'barking geckos'.



25. *See* the desert in bloom



25. *See* the desert in bloom

It's rare, but it does happen.

Every few years storm clouds push far west into the Namib Desert and burst as scarce rain showers.

The parched desert soil soaks up the rain and within a few short days the seeds that have lain dormant for years germinate. Soon fresh green grass covers the desert plains as far as the eye can see, sprinkled with yellow flowers of the Devil's claw.

The sound of larks and pipits fill the air and the smell of moist sand is invigorating.

It's wondrous, a VERY special experience.

So if you get a chance to see this miracle in the desert with your own eyes, TAKE IT!



26. *Marvel* at Sossusvlei filled with water



26. *Marvel* at Sossusvlei filled with water

And there is another rarity you might experience in the Namib Desert,
... well, if you are VERY lucky:

Sossusvlei, the usually dry pan, filled with water to the brim.

On average this only happens every eight years. And it is rather difficult to predict. It requires a sequence of good rain storms over the Great Escarpment further east, resulting in strong flooding of the Tsauchab River, ending at Sossusvlei.



Last time this happened in the year 2012.
It will happen again.
And it will be breathtakingly beautiful.

So if you get a chance to witness this special natural phenomenon by all means GRAB it, it'll be unforgettable.



Part FOUR

'Feel Namibia' at the Namibian coast

27. *Cool off* at the Namibian coast
28. *Collect* shells at the beach
29. *Listen* to the waves of the Atlantic Ocean
30. *Refresh* yourself in the cold sea water
31. *Meet* the 'little five' near Swakopmund
32. *Admire* flamingoes at the Walvis Bay Lagoon
33. *Feel* young next to a *Welwitschia mirabilis*
34. *Count* seals at their colony at Cape Cross
35. *Experience* the power of the ocean at the Jetty



27. *Cool of* at the Namibian coast



27. *Cool of* at the Namibian coast

Namibia's climate is hot and dry.

With one exception: the Namibian coast.

So should you long for a break from the inland heat, visit the coastal towns of Swakopmund, Walvis Bay, Lüderitz or Henties Bay, or camp along the Skeleton Coast.

The overcast sky, morning fog and chilly sea breeze is guaranteed to help you cool off from Namibia's hot temperatures.

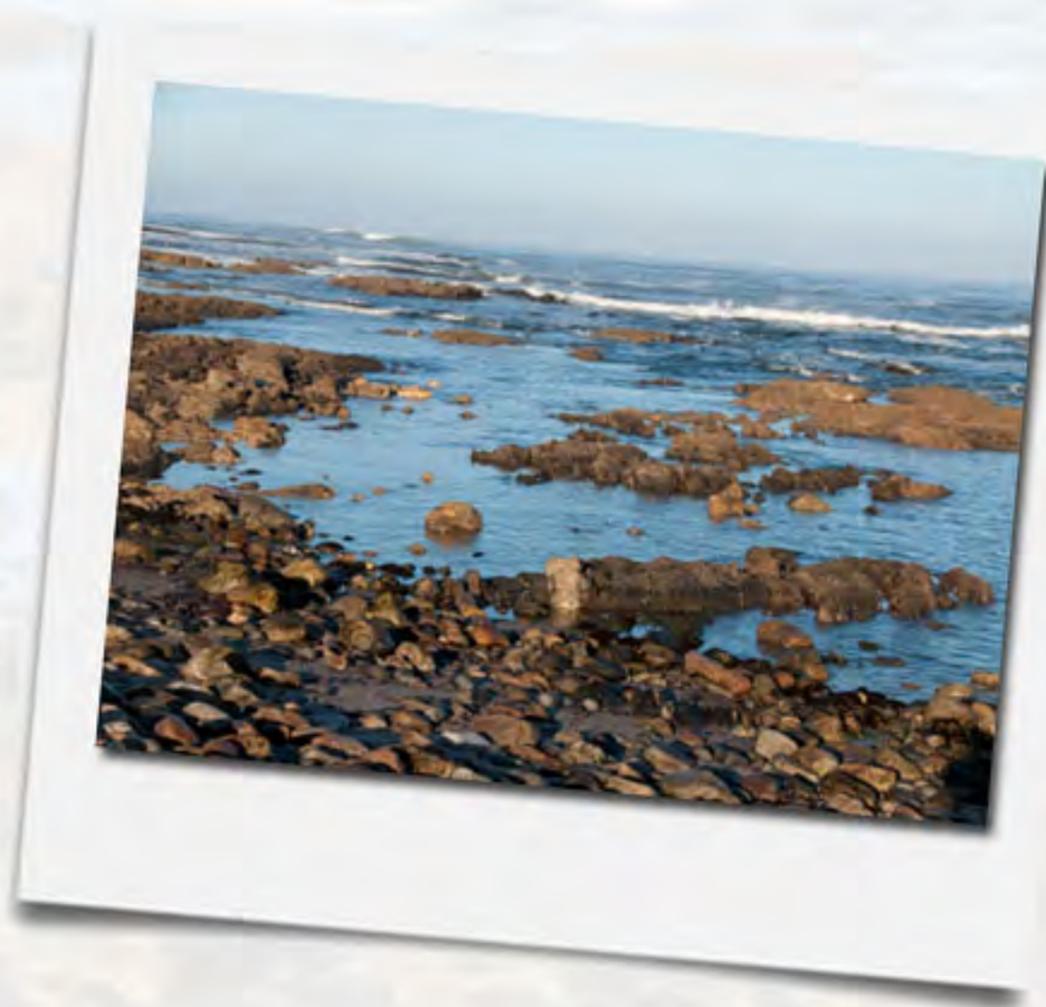


28. *Collect* shells at the beach



28. *Collect* shells at the beach

Namibia's rough sea washes up a variety of marine treasures every single day.



Head for the beach with a wind jacket and 'hunt for' beautiful shells and pebbles.

It's quite easy to forget time while you wander the coast as a beach comber, and it's immensely relaxing.



29. *Listen* to the waves of the Atlantic Ocean



29. *Listen* to the waves of the Atlantic Ocean

Stroll along the beach or sit down in the cool sand, bare-feet, and let your gaze wander over the open sea.

Feel the salty air on your skin.

Hear the sound of the waves.

Inhale deeply.

Marvel at the sheer wonder and infinity of the sea.



30. *Refresh* yourself in the cold sea water



30. *Refresh* yourself in the cold sea water

How brave are you? Find out!

Grab your swim wear and head for the 16 degrees C° cold Atlantic Ocean. The safest place to swim is at the Mole in Swakopmund, where there are few currents.



It does take some willpower to go into the cold water, but it'll feel great.

Don't overthink it, just DO IT!

You can reward yourself afterwards with a steaming-hot coffee at one of Swakop's cosy cafes.



31. *Meet* the 'little five' near Swakopmund



31. *Meet* the 'little five' near Swakopmund

Namibia's dunes are home to a variety of remarkable creatures.

Unfortunately you'll miss most of them on your lonesome walk through the sand, as they often hide during daytime and are well camouflaged or shy away from human visitors.

If you're curious to meet all these little fellows in one morning, you'll have a chance of doing so on a guided tour near Swakopmund.

You are guaranteed to be awed by the wonders of nature and may even fall in love with some of 'the little five' (Namibian sidewinder, Palmato gecko, Namaqua chamaeleon, White Lady Spider and Namibian fog-basking beetles).



32. *Admire* flamingoes at the Walvis Bay Lagoon



32. *Admire* flamingoes at the Walvis Bay Lagoon

For most of the year, flamingoes call Namibia's coast their home, as the cold sea water is rich in nutritious food.



Visit the Walvis Bay lagoon and admire Greater and Lesser flamingoes.

If you're lucky you may find hundreds or thousands of these beautiful birds near the water's edge.

Admire them as they wade and feed in the shallow water, accompanied by their lovely honking sounds.



33. *Feel* young next to a *Welwitschia mirabilis*



33. *Feel* young next to a *Welwitschia mirabilis*

It's yet another miracle.

Imagine barren soil. No rain. Only fog. Doesn't sound like the best place to live in?

Yet, these are the living conditions in the Namib Desert close to the coast. And it's the only place on earth where you'll find the *Welwitschia mirabilis* plant that has decided to grow here.

It's been living here for centuries already, some *Welwitschias* being over 1000 years old. Marvel at this remarkable plant.

And ... don't you feel refreshingly young next to it?

PS: To meet this odd plant, take the *Welwitschia* drive that starts 50 km east of Swakopmund. Please be careful not to walk too close to the plants, because their roots are easily destroyed. This species is highly endangered!



34. *Count* seals at their colony at Cape Cross



34. *Count* seals at their colony at Cape Cross

In the water Cape Fur seals resemble ballet dancers. They are playful, known to race alongside speed boats and to be inquisitive when coming across divers.

Unfortunately most of us never meet them in their natural element.

However, if you're interested, you can visit Cape Fur seals at their colony at Cape Cross, where they rest, sunbathe and raise their young.



Admittedly they are not as elegant on land as in the water, but they look cute, somewhat comical and are entertaining.

Judge for yourself - enjoy this noisy spectacle and be prepared for the strong aroma that goes with any large group of seals.



35. *Experience* the power of the ocean at the Jetty



35. *Experience* the power of the ocean at the Jetty

The Old Jetty is a landmark in Swakopmund.

Walk to its far end above the sea and just stand there.

Listen to the roaring thunder of the waves.

Taste the salty spray on your lips.

Feel the waves hit the structure.

This is the power of the
mighty Atlantic Ocean.



Part FIVE

'*Feel Namibia*' at the Etosha National Park

36. *See* the sun rise above the horizon
37. *Hear* the Namaqua sandgrouse
38. *Observe* zebra lining up to drink
39. *Experience* the hustle & bustle at a waterhole
40. *Look* a lion in the eye
41. *Listen* to the sound of the midday heat
42. *Marvel* at mirages on the Etosha Pan
43. *Adopt* the 'ommm' state of zebras
44. *Feel* the elephants enjoying their bath time
45. *Delight* in the relief that the setting sun brings
46. *Experience* Etosha's night life



36. *See* the sun rise above the horizon



36. *See* the sun rise above the horizon

If you want to start your day in a very special way, do THIS:

Leave your camp as soon as the gate opens and drive out into Etosha's open savanna.



Wait for the sun to come up over the horizon. Within minutes it'll grow into a huge yellow ball of fire that keeps climbing higher and higher into the clear Namibian sky.

Inhale the crisp morning air. Feel the wilderness around you.

What a privilege to experience the beginning of a new day in this special wild place!



37. *Hear* the Namaqua sandgrouse



37. *Hear* the Namaqua sandgrouse

An hour or two after sunrise they arrive at the waterholes, with clock-work regularity.

When you wait for them at the parking lot, you'll first hear the Namaqua sandgrouse's characteristic 'kalke'ven' calls before you see them fly in in flocks of ten or twenty birds.

Listen to their lovely calls. They truly belong to the special sounds of Etosha.



38. *Observe* zebra lining up to drink



38. *Observe* zebra lining up to drink

For the wildlife of Etosha it's an eternal hike between feeding grounds and waterholes.

Especially in the dry season, when plant food is sparse, zebra and other game might have walked for hours already, before they can enjoy their first drink of the day.



Observe the animals arrive at a waterhole in single file, before they finally line up at the water's edge and begin to quench their thirst.

Memorise it!

This is one of the scenes typical of the African savanna.



39. *Experience* the hustle & bustle at a waterhole



39. *Experience* the hustle & bustle at a waterhole

Incoming springbok, drinking zebras, patrolling jackals, suspicious giraffe, speeding warthogs...

It's incredibly busy by mid-morning at Etosha's waterholes. In the dry season they are truly the life-blood of the park and the hub of activity.

Sit back, observe and enjoy this entertaining bush TV Special.



40. *Look* a lion in the eye



40. *Look* a lion in the eye

Whenever you spot a single lion or a whole pride near-by
have a close look.

Don't get us wrong: At all times stay
in your car and at a safe distance
from these magnificent cats.

But take the time to look these
great cats straight in the eye:
the wildness and power they
express is most impressive.

And something you'll never forget.



41. *Listen* to the sound of the midday heat



41. *Listen* to the sound of the midday heat

The African heat can be intense. By midday most animals have moved away from the waterholes to rest on the plains or in the shade of a tree or shrub.

It's kind of quiet, but not exactly. There is one high-pitch piercing sound that accompanies the heat in Namibia. It's coming from a small insect, the cicada, that calls quite intensely at this time of day.

Listen to it.

This is the sound of Namibia's heat.



42. *Marvel* at mirages on the Etosha Pan



42. *Marvel* at mirages on the Etosha Pan

The Etosha Pan lies at the heart of the Etosha National Park.

At the height of the dry season, when temperatures are soaring, bizarre mirages develop on the barren pan. Sometimes the cloudless sky above Etosha reflects on the great, barren surface and feigns a vast lake.



Let yourself be fooled by this atmospheric sorcery and enchanted by the wondrous mirages.

PS: To best experience this magic, drive up to the Etosha Look-Out point or anywhere near the Etosha Pan.



43. *Adopt* the 'ommm' state of zebras



43. *Adopt* the 'ommm' state of zebras

They look as if they know how to do it:

To utterly relax even in this intense heat.

Find a herd of zebra on your game drive and observe them drift off into their 'ommm' state of being. Some of them are even resting their heavy heads on each other whilst dozing.

Isn't it quite contagious?



44. *Feel* the elephants enjoying their bath time



44. *Feel* the elephants enjoying their bath time

Their anticipation is almost palpable.

On their last meters to the waterhole, the elephant herd breaks into a run and forgets all about its orderly approach.

From now on it's just enjoyment: refreshing drink, cooling shower, relaxing swim, skin-soothing dust-baths ...

Mix this with plenty of social talk and playful interaction, and you'll understand why this might be the highlight of the elephants' day in the dry season.



Observe and take pleasure in this extraordinary performance.



45. *Delight* in the relief that the setting sun brings



45. *Delight* in the relief that the setting sun brings

It's close to sunset.

Feel the air.

Notice that the heat of the day is slowly easing off.

Enjoy the sensation of soothing tiredness yet deep contentment from your eventful day in the African bush.



46. *Experience* Etosha's night life



46. *Experience* Etosha's night life

As soon as darkness descends the waterholes become quiet.

For most wildlife species, it's become too dangerous there, and they have moved to safer sleeping grounds.

But this is the time for the heavy-weights - elephant and rhino - and for predators - lion, leopard and hyena - which might care to come past for a night cap.



Don't miss this great opportunity to catch a glimpse of Etosha's night life.

Grab your binoculars, camera and beer and go to the camp's waterhole, if you stay inside Etosha.

Just sit still. And watch and wait ...

It's worth it. 'Cause how often in your life will you be able to observe a wild lion at night in its natural habitat with your own eyes?



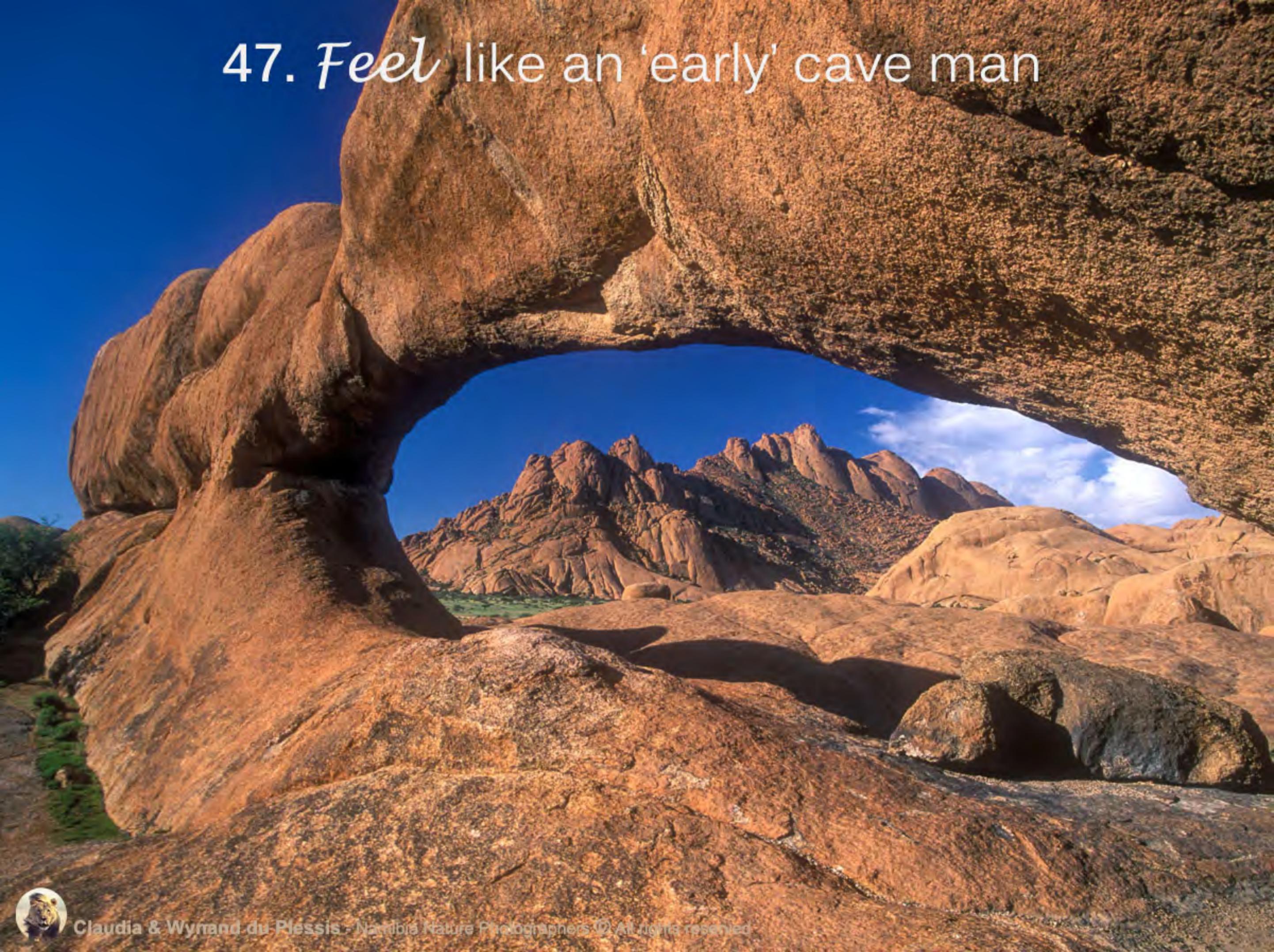
Part SIX

'Feel Namibia' at other great destinations in Namibia

- 47. *Feel* like an 'early' cave man
- 48. *Listen* to the wild sounds of the North-Eastern rivers
- 49. *Marvel* at the beauty of the Epupa waterfalls
- 50. *Be awed* by the quiver trees of Southern Namibia



47. *Feel* like an 'early' cave man



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Plenty of game to hunt.

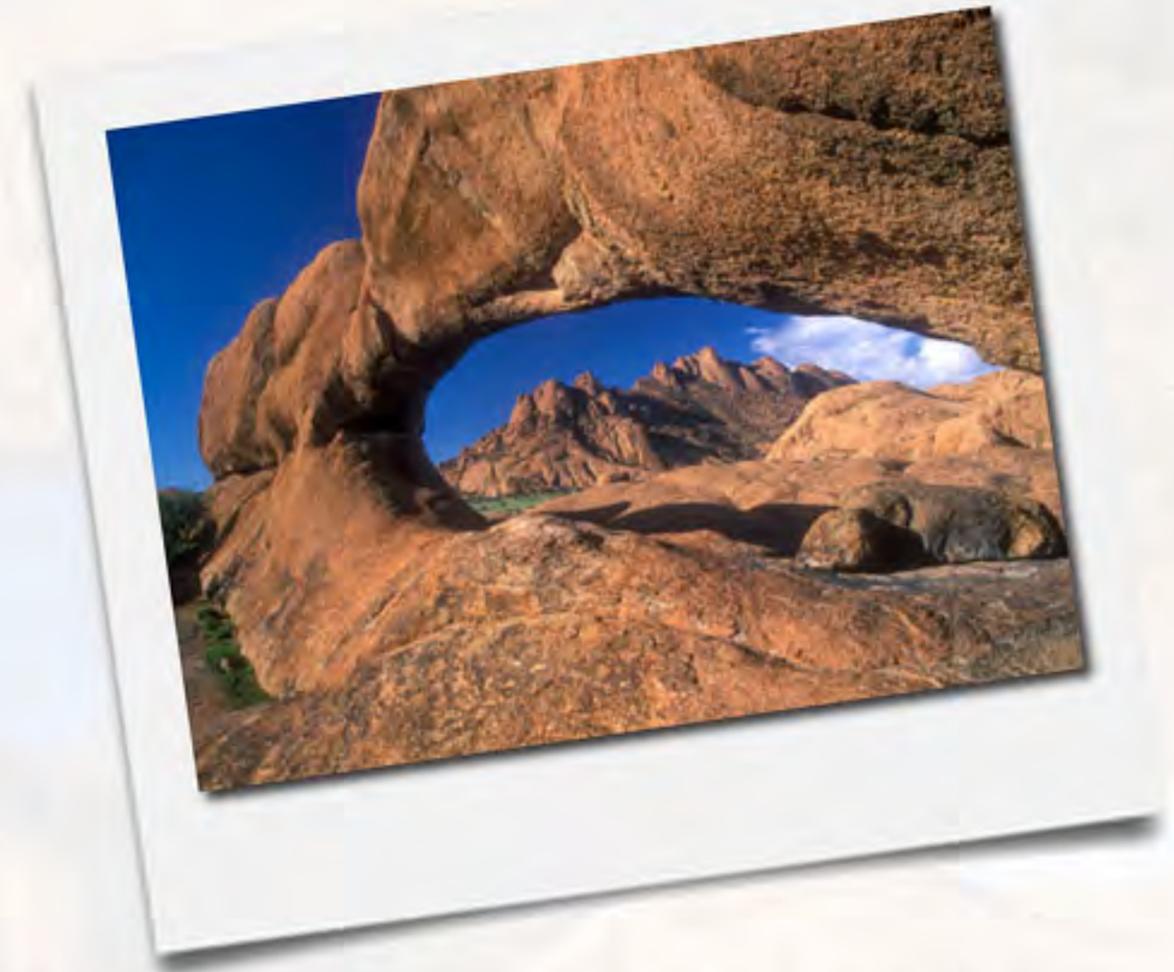
Abundant spring water.

Shelter in a comfy cave.

It must have been a paradise
for the early Bushmen of Namibia.

If you want to get a feel for the original life a few thousand years ago, walk up to the 'Bushman Paradise' at the Spitzkoppe Mountain and allow yourself an imaginary journey back in time.

And whilst you're there let the granite boulders of Spitzkoppe engross you by their uniqueness and stark beauty.



48. *Listen* to the wild sounds of the North-Eastern rivers



48. *Listen* to the wild sounds of the North-Eastern rivers

It's a symphony of the most beautiful, yet - to most of us – quite unfamiliar sounds.

When you hear the loud and bizarre call of the 'trumpeter hornbill' and the voluminous 'laughing' sound of a hippopotamus wafting over from the water mixed with the overpowering background concert of hundreds of cicadas you feel like you're on an entirely different planet.

Submerge yourself in this otherworldly audio-experience and enjoy!



49. *Marvel* at the beauty of the Epupa waterfalls



49. *Marvel* at the beauty of the Epupa waterfalls

It's like a fairy land.

From your look-out point you see the blue band of the Kunene river, lined with riverine forest, flow fast but quietly westwards.

Then the river suddenly drops in a series of waterfalls, throwing white columns of spray into the air and producing a deafening sound of thunder.

Add picturesque Baobab trees balancing on rock outcrops amidst the cascades and you've got a magic water world.

Magnificent!



50. *Be awed* by the quiver trees of Southern Namibia



50. *Be awed* by the quiver trees of Southern Namibia

Quiver trees are aloes, actually, and – just like us - love Namibia's heat, dry air and rocky terrain.

Be amazed by the beautiful golden-brown bark and the unusual shape of this extraordinary tree that is most photogenic in the golden hour and makes for great silhouettes.



Epilogue:

Our travel list is in no way comprehensive.

We know it.

But we've aimed at covering the most IMPORTANT ways to FEEL Namibia, so YOU will be able to experience the essence of Namibia's magic.

Feel free to discover many more ways for yourself.

And as long as we've inspired you ...

our mission has been successful ;-)



About the authors:

Claudia & Wynand du Plessis are professional photographers, publishers and authors of books, postcards, calendars and maps of Namibia's wilderness.

They have been stubbornly focusing on photographing the grand wildlife and landscapes of Namibia for the past twenty years.

Before becoming photographers they lived and worked as ecologists in the Etosha National Park and spent their off-time on game drives around the park in pursuit of special encounters and photographic opportunities with the wildlife there.

Claudia & Wynand 's photographs have appeared in renowned international and national magazines such as National Geographic, Nature's Best and Terra, and have been featured in many books, calendars and brochures worldwide.

They have received several awards in international photography competitions such as the Veolia Environment Wildlife Photographer of the Year and the European Natural Photographer of the Year (GDT). Claudia du Plessis is a member of the Gesellschaft deutscher Tierfotografen (GDT).

When YOU travel through Namibia you'll have a hard time not noticing their photographs – unless you never leave your car ;-) - which feature on their own range of postcards, calendars, books and maps all over the country.

Photo credits:

All photos by Claudia & Wynand du Plessis, except:
Photo 11 - André du Plessis, Photos 5, 7, 9 & 30 - Fotolia



<https://www.photos-namibia.com>

